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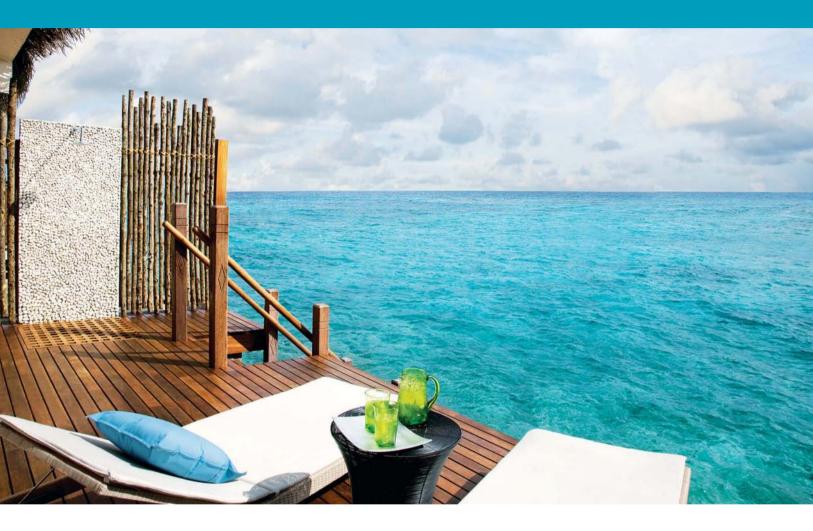




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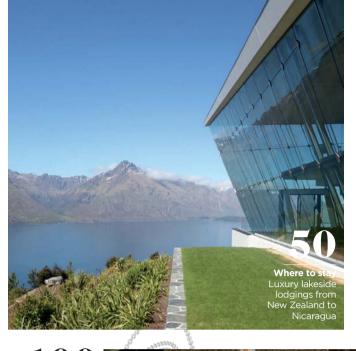
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ON THE COVER



Photographed by Julien Capmeil at Shangri-La's Villingili Resort & Spa, Maldives

PHOTO: JENNY KING



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EDITOR'S I FTTI





From left: On a pier, admiring yachts in Ibiza; the coastal Egyptian town of Hurghada has miles of beachfront, a charming marina and myriad opportunities for marine-life-spotting

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

This is our promise to the reader to be an essential source of honest opinion and must-have information. You can trust Condé Nast Traveller to give you the unbiased inside track, with integrity and authority.

finally signed up to become a certified open water scuba diver this summer. It's been a long time coming. I'm not sure if the last push was the result of sweltering summer days in the desert - and the sea, just down yonder, rippling invitingly - or the fact that I've spent a sizeable chunk of time recently putting together this month's islands and beaches issue. Whatever the impetus, after work on a particularly toasty evening, I hotfooted it down to a dive centre to get sorted out.

As a kid, I loved going to the aquarium. Weekend upon weekend, my mother would take me across so I could watch, mesmerised, as guppies, with their fanned-out rainbowhued tails, swam around their tanks, darting through aquatic plants. (I also briefly had a fish tank at home, but that chapter reached its rather tragic conclusion when the small turtle I introduced to the environment proceeded to eat all the fish.)

But my first real taste of aquatic life, as it should be in its natural environment, was on a snorkelling expedition in the Red Sea, off the coast of the Egyptian resort town of Hurghada, as a teenager. The coastal city has a pretty marina and miles of beach leading into aquamarine waters, which I was able to fully appreciate from the gorgeous villa we stayed in, owned by friends and fronted by a swimming pool and Jacuzzi on a terrace leading straight on to the sand. Avid divers, these friends also had a boat, which we took out one day, across the crystalline sea, to a reef. I remember being mildly freaked out,

at first, that there was no glass panel between the fish and me, but I was soon lost in the beauty of the underwater colours and the privilege of being (almost) side-by-side with creatures of another realm. Back on the boat, I felt exhilarated. Although, when the divers surfaced and clambered back aboard, I did feel a twinge of envy about their vantage point.

As I said, it's been a long time coming. If ever there were a place to inspire the

desire to dive beneath the surface of the ocean, it's the Maldives. The island nation is neither under-the-radar nor a well-kept secret - but that doesn't, nor should it, deter anyone from hopping on a seaplane from the capital, Malé, to one of the many beautiful islands, home not just to eminently dive-able reefs teeming with marine life but also to some of the most sumptuous resorts. Our guide to the best of these - from honeymoon havens to royal playgrounds and family favourites starts on page 80.

Further afield, across the Atlantic, and deliciously low-key are the quiet beaches of Barra de São Miguel, where a chic eco-resort is making waves among in-the-know Brazilian designers, business hotshots and trend-setters (p 100). Here, you can surf, sunbathe and hit the spa. Or simply do nothing. It's a far cry from the populated sands of Copacabana and Ipanema. And remember: the southern hemisphere's summer is still to come.

It's never too late for a beach break.

RHEA SARAN Editor in Chief @rheasaran @really rhea



Above: The Maldives is sought out for its jewel-like islands with white-sand beaches, crystalclear waters, iridescent sunsets and a slew of hot hotels

CONTRIBUTORS



A freelance photographer for global lifestyle magazines like *Condé Nast Traveler, Vogue Living* and *Bon Appétit*, and clients including Nestlé, Toyota and Lindt, Court's passion for being behind the lens dates back to his teenage years when his mum sent him to photography courses in the school holidays.

BASED IN: Sydney

PHOTOGRAPHED: Art & soul, p 94

THE MOST MEMORABLE PART OF SHOOTING IN YOGYAKARTA WAS...

"Climbing the ancient and magnificent Borobudur at 4.15am with my host Paul from the Jogja Village Inn. Although we didn't see the perfect sunrise, it was a magical experience. I loved how you could hear the bells ringing over the valley, and there was a stairway that framed the view below beautifully."

WHICH ISLAND WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO BE A CASTAWAY ON?

"Raja Ampat in West Papua, Indonesia - the pristine waters make for some of the best snorkelling and diving in the world; I have swum with manta rays and sharks there. Although some of the islands are inhabited, there are vast areas where you can sail and not see another soul for days. The islands are beautiful and serene yet in some places quite harsh, in a lush volcanic way."



Diamond is a freelance travel writer who has contributed to a range of magazines, websites and newspapers including *The Telegraph, The Guardian, The Sunday Times* online and *Travel + Leisure*.

BASED IN: London

WROTE: Lakeside lodgings, p 50

MY FAVOURITE PART OF COMPILING THE LAKESIDE RETREATS WAS...

"I thoroughly enjoyed researching and discovering just how diverse lakeside properties can be. Lakes are often dismissed in favour of the ocean when it comes to choosing a waterside getaway, yet I enjoyed the privacy and purity of these natural pools."

WHICH ISLAND WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO BE A CASTAWAY ON?

"Palawan in the Philippines. The northern stretches of the island are deserted and the beaches are rugged and framed by lush jungle. The best part is that the ocean is studded with lots of small karst islets – I could sit and watch that view all day and it's particularly striking when the sun sets. There is an abundance of fruit grown there, too, so I wouldn't go hungry."



The former editor-in-chief of *Men's Vogue Brazil* and a member of the launch teams of *Condé Nast Traveller Spain* and *Harper's Bazaar Brazil*, D'Orey is now the global director of PR for Design Hotels as well as working for properties like the Vidago Palace and the Valverde Hotel in Lisbon.

BASED IN: New York

WROTE: Secret sanctuary, p 100

I ENJOYED WRITING ABOUT KENOA BECAUSE...

"The resort is located in a tropical region of Brazil with endless white sandy beaches, beautiful azure waters and palm trees in myriad species and shapes. Close to the hotel, you can find fresh oysters plucked straight from the water, and Kenoa can organise a tasting served with the finest bubbly."

WHICH ISLAND WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO BE A CASTAWAY ON?

"The Quirimbas Islands in Mozambique - they're the most beautiful islands I've ever visited and the ones I have felt most connected to. There are plenty of activities to keep you occupied, from diving and snorkelling to water skiing. The locals are known for their amazing hospitality yet there's the feeling of being somewhere undiscovered and underdeveloped. Authenticity is key."



Freelance graphic designer Maheshwari previously worked as assistant art director at *Condé Nast Traveller India* in Mumbai and is currently pursuing a master's degree in design at the School of Visual Arts in New York.

BASED IN: New York and Mumbai **ILLUSTRATED:** *Great Scot*, p 46

ILLUSTRATING THE MAP OF SCOTLAND WAS INTERESTING BECAUSE...

"I enjoy travelling and discovering new places through activities or places that the destination is famous for. While researching specifics for the illustration, I was tempted to book a tour around this region of Scotland. It's definitely on my bucket list."

WHICH ISLAND WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO BE A CASTAWAY ON?

"I have been to a few islands in Thailand, but Mu Ko Ang Thong National Park, which comprises about 42 islands, has been on my wish list for a while. Just off the shore of Koh Samui, this national marine park is only accessible by boat. Meandering through the emerald-green waters and kayaking around the limestone islands would be a treat."

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"The beach in Khasab in Oman's Musandam peninsula. I enjoy beachcombing for shells and dolphinwatching on the breezy dhow tours."

Sana Panjwani

"I love the beaches,

resorts and nightlife

in Goa and enjoy going

there with my family. Everybody should visit

at least once in

Naveen Kumar

their lifetime

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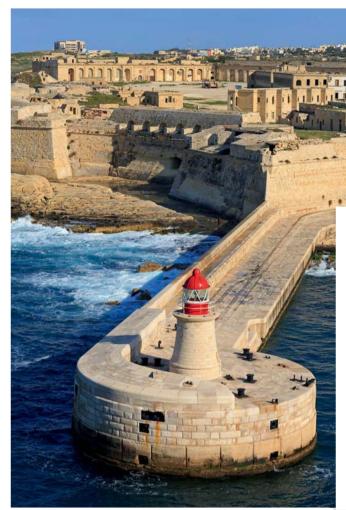
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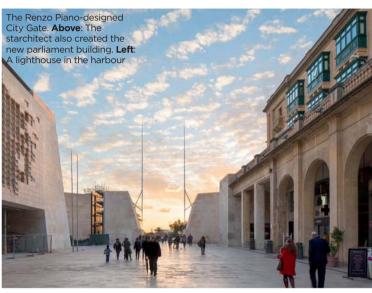
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HE MEDITERRANEAN ISLAND
nation of Malta, just south of
Sicily, has long been known
for its beautiful Baroque
architecture, Roman ruins and
UNESCO World Heritage sites,
the latter of which includes the
entire Maltese capital, with its
ancient cathedrals and palaces,

lush gardens and natural harbour. But ahead of its reign as European Capital of Culture in 2018 (*valletta2018.org*), Valletta is undergoing a modern makeover.

ARCHITECTURAL OVERHAUL

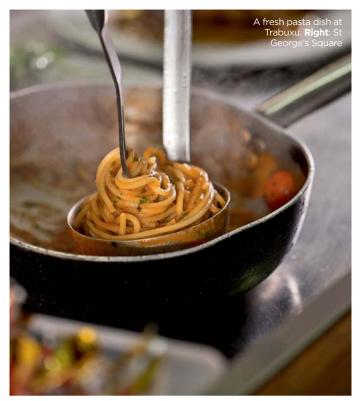
Pritzker-Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano (famous for London's Shard, Paris' Centre Pompidou and the New York Times Building) is putting Valletta back on the design map with his ground-breaking transformation of the gateway to the city; the parliament building faced with laser-cut stonework; and an open-air theatre rising from the ruins of the old Royal Opera House, which was bombed during WWII. Though at first met with some scepticism by tradition-minded locals who feared the avant-garde designs would drastically alter the face of the historic

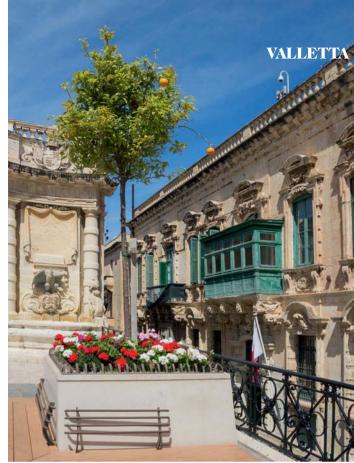
fortified city, the finished masterpieces blend old and new, respecting the original site with warm, sand-coloured stone while adding unique characteristics. The entrance and ground floor of the new parliament building is now a dynamic space for cultural events and exhibitions, and the open-air theatre will play host to concerts and festivals. Meanwhile, the area around the City Gate has been landscaped, and a former car park and bus terminal are being transformed into green spaces for the public to explore and relax in.

The capital's design cred has been further boosted by the recently announced Valetta Design Cluster, an initiative that will offer office and studio space for creative individuals and start-up companies, and residential spaces for designers, researchers, artists and industry specialists, allowing for international artist-in-residence programmes.

Strait Street, previously known for underground restaurants, music halls and madame's houses – where American and British sailors congregated for a good time in the 19th century (before Malta's independence led to a sharp decline in visiting sailors) – is also ready for a makeover, this time with more refined credentials. Valletta's narrowest alley, at

just 4m wide, it lay shuttered for a long while but is now buzzing with life as restaurants and bars spill out on to the street, such as sophisticated grape bar Trabuxu (entrées from AED 30; 00356-2122 0357, trabuxu.com.mt), set in a 400-year-old grape cellar, and Palazzo Preca (entrées from AED 140; 00356-2122 6777, palazzoprecavalletta.com), an upscale Maltese restaurant in a restored 16th-century palazzo. A recent AED 4.9 million investment from the government is contributing to the neighbourhood's facelift, with plans to install new lighting and furniture reflective of the street's history; restore pavements, wall paintings and old signs; and organise exhibitions, street theatre, live music and networking sessions with artists. "Strait Street lost all its relevance and was in a state of degradation, but now we are regenerating it into an entertainment hub," says Edward Zammit Lewis, Malta's minister for tourism. "We want to establish Valletta as a stand-alone tourism hub, separate from the rest of Malta, so it is more of a city-break destination like Rome or London. Malta is one of the least seasonal countries in Europe due to the warm southern Mediterranean climate, so it's a year-round destination."







The first event of its kind in the city, Aziamendi set up shop in a three-level *palazzo* for 100 nights, with a menu designed and created by three-Michelin-star chef Eneko Atxa in collaboration with hot local chef Michael Cauchi

One of Valletta's long-neglected architectural treasures, the Victorian covered market (is-Suq l-Antik tal-Belt) in the heart of Merchants Street will also undergo a complete restoration this year, courtesy of the Valletta 2018 Foundation. Once completed in 2017, the ground and middle levels will feature food stalls inspired by the Mercado San Miguel in Madrid, while the third level will host a café/lounge and a performance space, part of a collaboration with the Malta Arts Council.

EXPERIMENTAL CUISINE

Despite its tiny size, Malta's Mediterranean climate, warm sea and hillside vineyards ensure a plentiful supply of fresh, local ingredients like olives, capers, distinctive cheeses, prickly pears, dates, fish and quality grape that is in such high demand on the island that it is rarely exported, explaining, perhaps, why the smooth whites and full-throttled reds have yet to receive the praise they deserve. And while there are plenty of traditional restaurants with rustic charm, like **Ambrosia** (entrées from AED 20; 00356-2122 5923, vallettarestaurant.com) on the up-and-coming foodie strip of Archbishop Street, it

was last year's Michelin-starred pop-up that really shook up Valletta's dining scene. The first event of its kind in the city, Aziamendi set up shop in a three-level palazzo overlooking the Grandmaster's Palace and St George's Square for 100 nights, with a menu designed and created by three-Michelin-star chef Eneko Atxa in collaboration with hot local chef Michael Cauchi and 12 staff members from Iniala Beach House in Phuket, where Aziamendi is based in the high season. Combining Basque, Thai and Maltese influences, the restaurant offered a six- or nine-course degustation menu with dishes such as squid noodles with chicken broth, a rabbit and orange dish with a foie gras centre, and a Mediterranean tartlet of sweet, oven-dried tomatoes and parmesan, served with an ice cream made from local gbeiniet. Mark Weingard, chairman and founder of the Iniala Group and the entrepreneur behind the whole idea, is now based in Valletta and is busy working on bringing more top chefs to Malta for similar events. "We did very well with Aziamendi 100 - it was a bit ahead of its time," he says. "When we introduced Valletta to gourmet, Michelin-starred cuisine, people)





tuks that take guests from the ferry terminals to the restaurant," Weingard explains. "It will be a breath of fresh air for Valletta, which is primarily known for Italian- and Mediterranean-style cuisine, and we're going to have a space for pop-ups. We're planning to bring in big chefs like Gaggan Anand and Ian Kittichai from Thailand, and I'm sure we'll do something with Eneko again."

BOUTIQUE CHIC

Malta is home to several grand properties including the **InterContinental Malta** (*doubles from AED 765; 00356-2137 7600, ihg.com*) in the cosmopolitan town of St Julians with a lagoonstyle pool, a stretch of private beach and

one of Malta's best fish restaurants, Paranga, overlooking the sea; as well as the **Corinthia Palace Hotel & Spa, Malta** (*doubles from AED 1,010; 00356-2370 2370, corinthia.com*), the first property from the Maltese luxury hotel group, dating back to 1968. The group is also working on transforming the Corinthia San Ġorġ, Radisson SAS and the nearby Corinthia Marina into one mega resort.

But if you're looking for something a little more intimate, new boutique properties have been popping up, with at least 16 more earmarked in the near future. Located in a lovingly restored 17th-century Baroque palazzo, Palazzo Prince d'Orange (doubles from AED 490; 00356-9984 6615, palazzoprincemalta.

were very surprised. Everyone told us not to open here, but we had 3,000 diners over the three months and it was full most nights." He does acknowledge, however, that this kind of restaurant may not be sustainable in the longterm in a country this small as the populace would be unlikely to dine there on a weekly basis. And so he's launching a more accessible, authentic walking-street-style Asian restaurant in the heart of Valletta between Strait Street and the main thoroughfare, Republic Street, which will have food trolleys imported from Indonesia and is due to open next year. "It's going to be called Spice - I want to create a spice route through the length of the restaurant - and my aim is to provide tuk-





Now offering five apartments, each unique in style, with antiques and traditional balconies, the property's former claim to fame was an appearance in Steven Spielberg's movie Munich, playing the part of a safe house

com) offers five spacious apartments, each unique in style, with antiques and traditional Maltese balconies, as well as a roof terrace and a cosy "noble hall" for relaxed private dinners. Before it was transformed, the property's main claim to fame was an appearance in Steven Spielberg's movie *Munich*, where it played the part of a safe house - highlighting what a difference a thoughtful renovation can make.

A former family townhouse, the justopened Ursulino Valletta (doubles from AED 610: 00356-9974 3283, ursulinovalletta.com) combines Baroque architecture with modern. minimalist design to create a stylish urban sanctuary. Rolling art exhibitions change every couple of months and the hotel

organises meet-the-artist sessions. The room to book is the triplex penthouse suite, 82SEVEN, a lavish home away from home with a cosy sleeping quarter on the lower floor, a fully equipped kitchen on the middle floor and a modern glass-floored dining level on the top floor, leading out on to a private terrace where a chef can cook up a feast for guests, with 360-degree views of the Valletta skyline and Grand Harbour.

Ranged around a central, shaded courtyard, the eight personalised suites at the Victorianera palazzo Casa Ellul (doubles from AED 810; 00356-2122 4821, casaellul.com) were designed by distinguished Maltese architect Chris Briffa, retaining the property's original features like the timber-beam ceilings and wrought ironwork details while adding modern touches like skylights and hot tubs. Attention to detail is evident in the magnificently restored tiles, crisp white linens and antiques individually selected from markets around the world.

Hoping to set a new benchmark for hospitality in Malta, Weingard has just begun work on an Iniala hotel on Valletta's most exclusive street, St Barbara Bastions, a peaceful address right on the harbour front with uninterrupted views of the Three Cities - Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua - across the water. The entrepreneur purchased two beautiful townhouses and is converting them into a 16-room luxury resort, with a focus on art and design, scheduled to open next year. CNT Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt shined a spotlight on this tiny island, accessible only by boat, last year when they shot the movie By The Sea here. The greener, more rural island is home to many treasures including the Ggantija Temples, considered the oldest freestanding structures in the world; the Azure Window, a 20m natural arch along the coast; and the Inland Sea, a secluded bathing pool with crystal-clear waters surrounded by sheer cliffs. For lunch with a view, book a table at Kantra Beach Club (entrées from AED 50; 00356-7987 3787, tacenc.com) at the Hotel Ta' Cenc & Spa, to feast on fresh fish, grilled meats and pasta by the water's edge.

Hop on a ferry to explore Malta's sister isles

VALLETY

COMINO

Situated between Malta island and Gozo. the smallest isle in the Maltese archipelago is car-free and virtually uninhabited. Its main attraction is the Blue Lagoon, a sheltered inlet of shimmering azure water and golden sands that's a paradise for snorkellers, divers and windsurfers.

When to go

This year Valletta will commemorate 450 years since the Great Siege, when a small number of Maltese Knights held an entire Turkish army at bay. The celebration will reach its apex on September 8, Victory Day. Expect street parades, fireworks displays, traditional feasts and a regatta in the Grand Harbour.

Getting there

Emirates (emirates.com) flies to Malta with a one-hour stop in Larnaca during which guests remain on board







the nearby islands of Holhudhoo and Velidhoo for a rich cultural experience or head out for a snorkelling safari or fishing trip with the resort's sunset, night, big game or Maldivian trolling fishing packages.

Those relaxing on the island's white sands will benefit from complimentary sunglasses polishing, cold face towels and personalised shoulder massages from the Beach Concierge's service host, who can also help with setting up dinner and spa reservations.

If you're celebrating a special occasion, try the resort's tailored destination dining, featuring a gourmet multi-course meal served with chilled bubbly in a private location of your choice, from an oceanfront tent surrounded by a scattering of rose petals to

a circle of oversized cushions around a cosy, blazing bonfire.

The Exploration and Discovery activities guarantee a true Maldivian experience with visits to local islands. Guests can also take part in the "pack to make a difference" campaign by bringing along supplies like story books, stationery and first-aid kits, which are then distributed to the inhabitants of nearby islands.

Until September 26, B&B reservations are entitled to a half-board upgrade, allowing guests to enjoy complimentary dinners at Iru Restaurant throughout their stay.

For more information call 00960-656 0591 or visit thesunsiyam.com/irufushi



Clockwise from top: Enjoy ocean views from a Deluxe Beach Villa; observe marine life from a glassbottomed kayak; an aerial view of the island resort

6-10

WHERE Tisno, Croatia

WHAT Set in a secret cove, Soundwave Festival Croatia (soundwavecroatia.com) is celebrating its seventh year by adding a live art and film programme to its eclectic musical offering. Street and mural artists from across the country will transform the festival site into a living canvas while visitors dance along to the likes of Jay Electronica and Mr Scruff.

HOW Take a break from the hedonistic boat parties to explore the bay's marine life and historical dive sites like Kaprije and Kukuljar with Fun Diving Tisno.

00385-91-167 4765, croatia-scuba-diving.com

7-31

WHERE Edinburgh, Scotland
WHAT The world's largest arts showcase is setting up camp once more in Scotland's capital. With over 3,000 events taking place over three weeks, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe (edfringe.com) is a platform for performing artists across comedy, dance, theatre, cabaret and children's shows.

HOW With a priority entrance ticket, get the best seat for the final-day fireworks and a nice picnic enjoyed to the stirring tunes of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

AED 100; 0044-131-473 2000, eif.co.uk/venue/rosstheatre-princestgardens



WHERE Austin, Texas

WHAT The Austin Ice Cream Festival (icecreamfestival.org) in the Fiesta Gardens is every child's (and big kid's) fantasy. In addition to treats from the best parlours in town, there's an ice-cream eating contest, a home-made ice-cream making competition and various stalls displaying local art.

HOW Emirates (*emirates.com*), Qatar Airways (*qatarairways.com*) and Etihad (*etihad.com*) fly direct to New York from where United (*united.com*) flies to Austin.



WHERE Sydney, Australia
WHAT With more than 85,000 participants
each year, the Sun-Herald City2Surf
(city2surf.com.au) 14km fundraiser run starts
in Hyde Park, passing through East Sydney

and Rushcutters Bay and ends at Bondi Beach, with live music from start to finish. **HOW** More of an observer? Watch the end of the race from your suite's private terrace at the recently refurbished historic Hotel Bondi. *Doubles from AED 840; 0061-2-9130 3271, hotelbondi.com.au*

12-25

WHERE Buenos Aires, Argentina
WHAT Showcasing traditional Argentine
tango to half a million spectators, the Tango
Buenos Aires Festival (festivales.buenosaires.
gob.ar) includes tango-themed live concerts,
films, art shows and dance classes, kicking off
with an open-air milonga where thousands of
tangueros take to the streets.

HOW Refuel with a steak, which the country is famed for, at popular La Cabrera in the trendy neighbourhood of Palermo. *0054-11-4831 7002; parrillalacabrera.com.ar*

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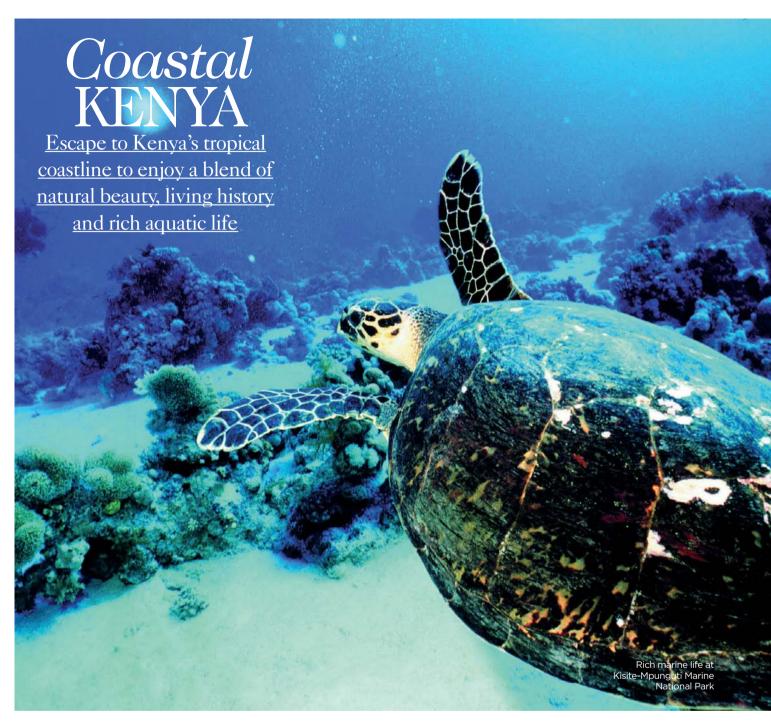
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ore commonly known for its safari opportunities, Kenya is also home to miles of coastline with pristine beaches offering postcard-perfect views, rich underwater life and a wide array of water sports like waterskiing, sailing and jet-skiing. The coastline has a storied history, having been used as a passage for the Arabian spice trade, and boasts Araband Portuguese-style forts as well as deserted ruins of Swahili outposts.

The south coast is home to Diani Beach, a lush palm-fringed haven where the offshore reef is teeming with coral, myriad species of fish, sea turtles and dolphins, inviting visitors to partake in the plethora of water activities available such as snorkelling at Kisite-Mpunguti Marine National Park; fishing at Shimoni, a nearby fishing village with coastal caves; and embarking on a *dhow* trip to Wasini Island, south of Shimoni. The forested land at Diani also gives visitors the chance to bird watch, spotting indigenous species like Fischer's Turaco and the Plain-backed Sunbird.

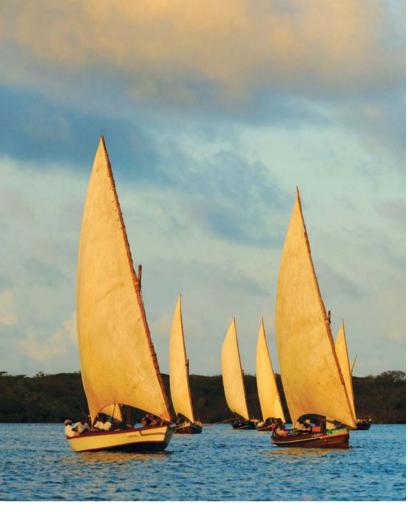
While the north coast offers similar water activities at places like Watamu, guests can also trek along the Bamburi Nature Trail and wreck dive near Nyali Beach to explore the

ruins of *MV Dania*, lying 35m below sea level and featuring a manmade obstacle course that also serves as a training ground for beginners. More experienced divers can find adventure in the Vuma Caves, near Kilifi Creek, which is a refuge for eels, large grouper and barracuda.

Check in to any of the wide range of luxury accommodations situated along Kenya's coastline for a memorable stay, including Southern Palms Beach Resort and Leopard Beach Resort & Spa in the south, as well as luxury villas in Malindi up north.

For more information visit magicalkenya.com

TRAVELLER PROMOTION







AROUND THE WORLD WITH...

Jean-Georges Vongerichten

The celebrity chef and cookbook author recently opened two new restaurants, JG Kitchen and JG Dining Room, at the Four Seasons Resort Dubai at Jumeirah Beach. He took a break to talk food, travel and Hugh Jackman

Your thoughts on Dubai's food scene?

When you compare it to New York, it has a similar energy and people eat out a lot. I like the mix of cuisines, the different spices. I love za'atar – that's been a good discovery. Our new restaurants showcase the best of what we do in New York. At the opening party, people were saying, "I hope you have the cheeseburger from ABC Kitchen." But we also add things: a white-bean hummus, we use za'atar. More and more, we're going to incorporate what we discover here.

Where did your love for global ingredients start?

It came from my travels. I left France when I was pretty young, in 1980. I arrived in Bangkok and everything was a surprise. In France, you cook things for a long time - you can't make a soup without first making a stock. Whereas in Thailand, you started with a pot of water, added some lemongrass, ginger, lime leaves, shrimp, fish sauce - in 10 minutes, you had the best soup. Now, I can't cook without chillies or lemongrass or a drop of soya or fish sauce. It's part of who I am. I used to cook with spices like cinnamon and cardamom in France, but they don't come from there. I wanted to go to Asia to learn where they grow. I even went to Kochi in India, to the black pepper plantations. It was like tracing the spice route.

Where was your most memorable meal?

On the way to the hotel from the airport in Bangkok that first time, I saw people cooking on the street. I made my taxi stop so I could try things. I had *tom yum goong*, made with lemongrass. It changed my life in terms of flavour profile and learning about cooking with spices.



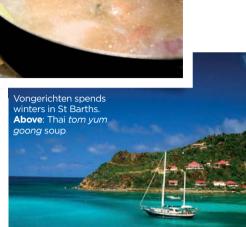
'In Bangkok, I ate tom yum goong cooked on the street. It changed my life in terms of flavour profile'

Which cities are great for food?

There are many now: Tokyo, Dubai, London. London has changed in the last 25 years. I cooked in a hotel there in 1985 and most of the food in the city was mediocre at best. Today, it's a mega city for food.

In your wife's show, Kimchi Chronicles, you travelled around Korea. What was that like?

My wife was adopted and brought up in America, then went back to Korea to discover her family – so it was really fun doing the show. I didn't know much about Korean food when I met her, but after we moved in together one night I opened the fridge and was like, "Whoa, what's in there?" It was kimchi, which I love now but at the



time I wasn't sure what it was doing next to my yoghurt.

Hugh Jackman appeared in some episodes. Is he a good cook?

He's an excellent cook, a very good barbecue guy. He's our neighbour in New York. The only thing he has in his fridge that I hate is Vegemite.

As a New York City resident, where do you like to grab breakfast?

I live in the West Village and there's a little coffee shop called Kava where I have my latte in the morning. They do a great, simple toast with almond butter and sliced banana. That's my go-to place, but it's a hole in the wall.

How about for a late-night snack?

There's a place in Chinatown called Great N.Y. Noodletown. You can go as late as two in the morning. I get chicken noodle soup, steamed lobster, some pepper shrimp. They have 10 kinds of fried rice. You'll eat under the worst lighting, but the food is delicious.

Where do you go to relax?

In the winter, we'll go to St Barths. It's paradise, with the best beaches. I don't have to visit anything or do anything. I don't know where I'm going for lunch, or what beach I'm going to. I'm barefoot for 10 days.

What is the first thing you pack?

Now, probably my Apple Watch. Email, texts, I can get everything on my wrist. CNT

TRAVELLER PROMOTION





estled along the coast of Seychelles' Beau Vallon Beach, the H Resort Beau Vallon Beach is located in Mahé, near the capital city Victoria and a 30-minute drive from Seychelles International Airport. Surrounded by topaz waters and framed by takamaka trees and coconut palms, the resort opens its doors to guests on August 1, 2015.

The 84 junior suites and 16 villas – with private pools – range from 54 to 247sqm, each residence highlighting elements of Seychellois heritage through their inspired designs. The resort is also home to several diverse dining outlets, including Vasco's which serves Mediterranean fare in contemporary surroundings; 1502, a laid-back, island-chic spot serving light local snacks and drinks; pool bar and grill Ripples; Eden, an intimate, private venue where you feast on seafood; Japanese restaurant, Seyshima, set amid lush foliage; and Tête-à-Tête, which offers guests the chance to enjoy dinner under the stars.

The resort also houses Treetops Kids' Club, run by a team of professional caretakers and offering numerous activities for kids of all ages. While the young ones are off exploring and engaged in supervised fun activities, make your way to Sesel Spa for wellness treatments inspired from both the West and East. Or head over to the state-of-the-art fitness centre with trainers available for consultations in the fully equipped gym.

For more information call 00248-438 7000



ocated at the tip of Haa Alif Atoll, JA Manafaru is set on 35 acres, fronted by white sands and surrounded by lush foliage. With the Indian Ocean as a backdrop, the 84 villas and suites provide guests with a tropical paradise, offering a wealth of activities for adults and children.

Head over to the resort's Watersports Centre for kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, windsurfing, jet-skiing, catamaran sailing, water-skiing and wake-boarding excursions, or charter a speedboat and take a tour of the islands. Guest can also join in a snorkelling safari, dolphin cruise or beginner's diving class, or board the 65ft cruiser for a fishing trip.

Back on dry land, head to the hotel's Kakuni Restaurant, where the chefs will prepare and cook your catch, just the way you like it. Or try one of the other six bars and restaurants like White Orchid, offering Asian-fusion fare, seafood restaurant Ocean Grill, the Italian-inspired Andiamo Bistro and Pool, or Infinity Bar and Pool for light bites. Horizon Lounge is the spot for sunset cocktails or choose from the extensive grape menu at award-winning The Cellar. Embark on a culinary journey with one of JA Manafaru's gastronomic experiences including private beach and desert island dinners, progressive dining with each course at different restaurants, or a chef's table dinner at The Cellar, Guests can also learn the tricks of the trade with a Maldivian cooking class using fresh local produce.

Kids over the age of eight can kick back at ChillZone, engaging in a number of indoor





An aerial view of the island. **Below**: The resort's infinity pool





and outdoor activities ranging from billiards and table tennis to beach games and bike rides, while younger children are catered to at CoolZone Kids Club with a swimming pool and supervised activities. Meanwhile, adults can unwind at Calm Spa with rejuvenating treatments focusing on deep hydration, mental clarity and relaxation, or sign up for complimentary aqua aerobics, boot camp, gym circuit or yoga introduction classes.

And for the ultimate escape, book a Castaway Experience on a deserted island just 10 minutes from the resort where you can relax on the white sand, snorkel in the clear waters and enjoy a gourmet hamper lunch.

For more information call 00971-4-814 5577 or visit jaresortshotels.com







2 MINUTES WITH...

Adriano Zumbo

The Australian macaron king on chicken, lucky numbers and the next hot food destination



One thing you dread while travelling for work?

You always have to eat at least one meal at the hotel you're staying in, and if it isn't any good, it's a deal-breaker.

If not pastries, you would specialise in?

Chicken and cooking it in many different ways. I'm a huge fan of the bird.

Three things you don't leave home without?

A Sharpie, a notebook and a tasting spoon.

You're superstitious about the numbers 11 and 6 because?

I consider them good luck. When I travel, I always hope to get rooms that equal either of those numbers.

The next food destination in Australia?

Noosa and the Hinterland.

ON THE RISE

Bakeries in San Francisco are having a moment. The Mill is one of the city's new wave of sweet spots that go beyond the basics. Take a look inside

STOP AND SHOP

Rolling pins, tote bags and other merchandise remind you that it's not just about baking but about a lifestyle.

CONNECT ME NOT

Leave your laptop at home; this is a no-Wi-Fi zone. Think of it as coffee-shop backlash.

KILLER COFFEE

Single-origin beans from Four Barrel and ace baristas keep the bakery buzzing all day.

PASTRY PLUS

Expect more than classic croissants. There might be kimchi in those morning buns.

соок оит

The baking's done on-site, often in view of (drooling) customers.

PROPOSE A TOAST

There's a pricey toast menu, of course.

BRAND OF BAKERS

Bakers today aren't anonymous labourers - they're earning the name recognition of big-time chefs, like The Mill's Josey Baker (his real name).

themillsf.com







Bringing their notable hospitality down to earth from 30,000 feet, Virgin Atlantic and Delta Air Lines just threw open the doors of NY-LON Lounge Bar, a pop-up venue in London's The O2. Serving British and American cuisine washed down with expert cocktails, the aviation-themed bar is upping its caché with secret spaces for meetings, private dining or small events. Even better, in celebration of the two airlines' joint venture between London and New York, with seamless onward connections, members of frequent flver programmes Flving Club and SkyMiles receive discounts and offers proving that loyalty pays. ny-lon.co.uk



BEACH BABES

Pack an assortment of Poupette à La Plage's **mix-and-match, vintage-inspired children's beachwear** in your tote for the many changes that are inevitable when kids get near the sea. The good news is that the cute dresses, shorts, T-shirts, swimwear and sun hats, in summery shades and cool Liberty London prints, are designed such that junior can dress himself.

WORDS: JENNY KING, AMIEL STANEK, PRASAD RAMAMURTHY

38 CONDÉ NAST TRAVELLER AUGUST 2015

et. AFD 365

all Poupette

à La Plage



LIVE PERFORMANCE 2.0

Audience involvement is a growing trend in New York's theatre scene. AARTI COOPER checks out the best immersive stage experiences

1. SLEEP NO MORE

British theatre company Punchdrunk's take on *Macbeth* happens over three floors of spooky "room-sets" in the eerie McKittrick Hotel. Guests are separated from their friends, given masks and dropped off on a random floor, from where they are expected to roam the hotel, alone. The idea is to walk around, watch scenes from the play, performed simultaneously in different rooms, and piece the story together. *sleepnomorenyc.com*

2. THEN SHE FELL

have you smiling

thenshefell.com

throughout.

This is an intimate experience as each show has only 15 audience members, all of whom are characters in the play. Based on the writing of Lewis Caroll, the production explores his thoughts and his relationship with his character, Alice, Although you are in a hospital ward and not in Wonderland you will meet the latter's beloved characters along the way. The sets, choreography and dance are delightful and will

3. DRUNK SHAKESPEARE

At a bar, a lone actor has at least five shots before performing Shakespeare. You might hear digs at Justin Bieber or be issued a push-up challenge. drunkshakespeare.com

4. ACCOMPLICE

This one is part scavenger hunt, part theatre. Groups of around a dozen are given a mission and sent out into the city streets, armed with clues, to achieve it. Cast members are secretly planted all along the way, at bars, street corners and other landmarks, so you could suddenly chance upon a comedian or mime on your hunt.

accomplicetheshow.com

5. PLAY/DATE

This voyeuristic show, performed on three levels of a nightclub, is a bold take on short plays inspired by New York's dating scene.

Witness blind dates, breakups, first dates and more as you stroll through the bar

you stroll through the bar and choose which stories you want to follow. playdateshow.com

From top: A cast member of Then She Fell; landmarks, such as the Flatiron Building and Fifth Avenue Clock, are used in Accomplice experiences



OFF THE WALL

South Africa's cool kids are turning their attention to a Durban renewal

After watching from the sidelines as Johannesburg and Cape Town underwent inner-city facelifts, Durban is ready for its own nip and tuck. The developers who created Jo'burg's wildly successful Maboneng Precinct (a rundown area turned hip hub, including an artist-decorated hotel and indie cinema) are now working their magic on the seaside city's Rivertown district. The Morning Trade - a weekly market selling fresh produce and fiery protea plants alongside pulled-pork sandwiches from Cave and hand-made ice cream by LegenDairy - opened its doors in a converted warehouse last August. Up next, galleries, restaurants and boutiques aplenty. "We want to create a neighbourhood that uplifts the area, while taking into account the existing essence of Durban," says Jonathan Liebmann, the brains behind the project. "We're not going to roll out a model of Maboneng, but rather look at this as something entirely new." So could Durbs finally find its cool? Judging by the throngs descending on Rivertown, it looks like it already has.

TECH CHECK

When Instagram won't cut it

Four apps and websites for photography lovers on the go

HEYDAY

How it works: It combines your photos, notes and status updates to create a sort of visual timeline of where you've been and what you've seen. When you photograph your croissant in a Paris café, it uses your location info to caption it so you don't have to bother.

Best for: Weekends away when you're covering lots of ground – and taking a ton of pictures. *Free: hev.co*

JOURNI

How it works: This is for anyone who's ever wanted to keep a travel blog but thought it required too much effort. Take a bunch of photos, jot down notes (if you're offline, it'll remember where you were when you wrote them) and share.

Best for: Honeymoons – because the last thing you want to do is waste time captioning photos. *Free; journiapp.com*

GOOGLE+ STORIES

How it works: Hate sorting through your photos once you're home? Let Google edit them for you. It picks the very best ones – at least according to its algorithms – and organises them into presentation-worthy timelines, with room for short captions that are kept private until you choose otherwise.

Best for: Family vacations. Your relatives don't really need to see all 500 photos from Disney World.

Free; plus.google.com

EXPOSURE

How it works: If your travel photography is good enough to be in a magazine, this site creates beautifully designed visual narratives from your photos and videos on a Tumblr-like platform.

Best for: Epic adventures – especially if you own a great camera like a Canon 5D.

From AED 33 per month; exposure.co



SUPER TRAVELLER

Garrett McNamara

Surfer Garrett McNamara made headlines in 2013 when he broke his own record for one of the biggest waves ever surfed (a 100ft monster off the coast of Portugal). When he isn't chasing swells, McNamara splits his time between the North Shore of Oahu and the surf town of Nazaré in Portugal. We asked him for his beach and travel tips

BEST SURF SPOT FOR BEGINNERS

"There's a break called Chocolates that only locals know about behind the Surf-N-Sea surf shop in Haleiwa, on Oahu's North Shore. It's a great place to get the feel of your board."

BEST SWIMMING BEACH "Green Turtle Cay in the Bahamas. The water is amazingly clear, calm and warm. There's a little island just outside the lagoon, and at certain tides you can wade out to it."

BEST PLACE TO WATCH EXTREME SURFING "Farol da Nazaré – the lighthouse on the cliff overlooking Praia do Norte in Portugal. You can get really close to huge waves."

FAVOURITE HOTEL ON THE PORTUGUESE COAST "Areias do

Seixo (doubles from AED 3,860; 00351-26-193 6340, areiasdoseixo.com), a one-hour drive from Lisbon in Praceta do Atlântico, is by far the most romantic hotel I've stayed at."

FAVOURITE RESTAURANT ON OAHU

"Opal Thai in Haleiwa is a must. Don't be taken aback when Opal orders for you – relinquishing control pays off." *Entrées from AED 30; 001-808-381 8091* **TRAVEL PHILOSOPHY** "To stay sane, when travelling as much as I do, I tell myself that delayed flights, missed planes and mixed-up reservations are just opportunities for adventure."



TROPICAL TOTES

Bring in a touch of the tropics no matter your destination with these

artisanal bags adorned with pink flamingoes, toucans and pineapples.

Designed in the Philippines by a mother-daughter trio, the accessories are handcrafted using specialised techniques and locally sourced products such as woven sea grass, wood engravings and mother of pearl inlay. Avoid Baga and Calangute's overcrowded beaches and head north to the Morjim-Ashwem stretch, where a slew of boutique hotels, chic bars and cool stores are drawing the It crowd

SIFFE

Putting a wonderful seaside twist on the idea of desert-safari tents, **Paros by Amarya** plays the rustic hospitality card to the hilt. With cosy, tented accommodation, cheerful staff and pleasant service, you can live out your *Arabian Nights* fantasy on the seashore. Doubles from AED 345 (open from November to April); 0091-114-175 9267, amaryagroup.com

- Siolim House, a palatial Portuguese mansion in the heart of a Goan village, offers guests a stylish brush with authentic local life. The property, which is more than 300 years old, is replete with antique furniture, verdant gardens and a pool. Doubles from AED 615; 0091-832-227 2941, siolimhouse.com
- Set on a pristine stretch of beach in Morjim, the Marbela Beach Resort (doubles from AED 1,155; 0091-832-645 0599, marbelabeach.com), with its tepees and new tented suites plus a renovated pool, is hugely popular with the swish set for its sundowners and full-moon parties. Its sister hotel Marbela Home (doubles from AED 695; 0091-832-651 5253, marbelahome.com) has access to the main resort's excellent spa and day club.
- Riva Beach Resort brings together sun, sand, sea and splendour. With spacious rooms and delicious Goan cuisine, this place is ideal for a fun family holiday. Doubles from AED 235 (open from June to September); 0091-937-270 2533, rivaresorts.com

DRINK

If you're a fan of electronic music, go to **SOMA Project**, a cool bar, club and restaurant on the Ashwem beachfront. While the bar serves grape bottled at India's Sula Vineyards, the club's DJs keep the crowd on its feet by spinning music late into the night. Cocktails from AED 35 (open from October to March): 0091-982-239 5522

EAT

La Plage is one of Ashwem's funkiest beachside restaurants, best known for its



creative take on French food. No trip to North Goa is complete without sampling a few dishes from its innovative menu, which includes terrines and gratins, and a quirky chocolate *thali* for dessert.

Entrées from AED 25 (open from November to March): 0091-982-212 1712

- You could easily walk right past **Fellini's** on the main road in Arambol, but step inside and you'll be blown away. Serving woodfired pizzas cooked in a stone oven and home-style pasta made with wholesome, fresh ingredients, this is as authentic as Italian food gets in these parts.

 Entrées from AED 25 (open from October to April); 0091-988-146 1224
- Don't be intimidated by snazzy **Sur la Mer's** stiff-upper-lip menu, featuring escargot, lobster and beef carpaccio. The place exudes an easy charm that invites you to lounge about and dine over a few hours. Leave room for their famous chocolate fondant. Entrées from AED 50 (open from September to May); 0091-985-005 6742, surlamergoa.com

SNACK

The trend toward healthy, organic food has caught on in Goa. **Om Made Café**, a cheery little shack in Anjuna, dishes out hearty sandwiches, fresh smoothies and sumptuous desserts made with locally sourced, mostly organic produce. *Entrées from AED 15; 0091-802-553 3369, ommadecafe.com*

■ Little shack-café **Pink Orange** is a great place for a detox, serving an all-veggie range

of fresh and (partly) organic food and drink. Entrées from AED 35; 0091-982-234 7462

■ If partying all night leaves you craving a pick-me-up, head to the **Nespresso Bar** at Paros by Amarya for a coffee of your choice and some simple snacks. Its upbeat, colourful décor will definitely perk you up. *Coffee from AED 10; amaryagroup.com*

SHOP

Just beside 1971 Bar on Ashwem Beach is the **Jade Jagger Beach Boutique**. A burst of colour emanates from the British designer's Goan outpost, which has a decidedly bohemian look. Browse through her diaphanous dresses and chunky statement jewellery to create your own beach-hippie look. *jadejagger.co.uk* (open from November to April)

■ Also on Ashwem Beach, **Dust** is a boutique selling an eclectic collection of clothing made with raw textiles and inspired by tribal designs – think bold block prints, raw silk and pure cotton fabrics for both men and women.

Next to Jade Jagger Beach Boutique

CHILL

Counter a weekend of partying with a detox retreat at **Sushumna Yoga School & Studios**, where you can choose between various schools of yoga, including lyengar, Ashtanga and Mysore.

Classes from AED 15; 0091-992-321 9254, sushumna.in

THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING AIRPORT LINES

With airlines and airports offering an array of services, you can now get from kerb to craft faster than ever, reports AARTI COOPER

New technology is helping passengers expedite their way through busy airports. Here are a few updates.

- In 2014. Canada's Halifax Stanfield International Airport introduced a fully automated self-serve baggage check-in system. You can check in, select seats, print boarding passes and luggage tags and drop off bags via a self-service bag drop terminal with no airline assistance. KLM has used this system on a smaller scale at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport since 2012, while Emirates used to offer this service at **Dubai International Airport** but is now semiautomated, requiring passengers to go to a bagdrop counter where airline personnel will attach the baggage tags and check in your luggage.
- Hong Kong Airport's free in-town check-in service is available for all major airlines at the city's main train stations. You can check your luggage in, even 90 minutes before flying, and go to the airport bag-free, boarding pass in hand. Seoul's Incheon International Airport and Abu Dhabi International Airport offer similar services.
- Qantas pioneered the Digital Bag Tag, but British Airways is testing its own version, with which passengers use the airline's app to check in, choose seats and get their mobile boarding pass. The app will then update the digital bag tag with a unique barcode with relevant flight details, eliminating the need for sticky paper tags. Airbus' Bag2Go lets passengers connect their flight details to their luggage and track it via the Find My Bag app.
- The US Customs and Border Protection has set up an outpost in the Etihad Airways hub of Abu Dhabi **International Airport**, which offers pre-immigration and customs clearance, eliminating the need for these inspections on arrival in America.

You can print luggage tags and drop off your bags with no airline assistance



SUSTAINABLE **SHADES**

Following the global trend of utilising natural materials, these colourful wooden frames by French brand Waiting For The Sun blend Parisian chic with California cool. Not just stylish, each hand-carved piece is made from renewable Australian tea wood and bamboo so you can feel good as you bask in the sunshine.





SHAKE IT T

ON TREND

Become a mixologist with these travel-friendly drinks kits, delivered to your door

Not overly impressed by your airline's cocktail menu? The Carry-on Cocktail Kit (AED 113, amazon. co.uk) comes with a bar spoon/muddler, cane sugar, a small bottle of aromatic bitters and a recipe card - just ask the flight attendant for a mini bottle of spirits to create your own tipple. If you've booked a homestay for your next trip to New York or Chicago, Cocktail Courier (AED 160 per box; cocktailcourier.com) will deliver drinks to your door curated by top local bartenders. In the UK, Tipple Box (AED 135; tipplebox.co.uk) delivers a box of craft cocktail ingredients with a mixing jar, while Shaken (AED 135; shakencocktails.com) mails out premium ingredients, recipes and tips.

THE GLOSSARY: Hotel shorthand

How bellhops, cleaning staff and concierges really talk behind the scenes - and what it means

HOTEL CHANDLER, **NEW YORK**

Skipper

Someone who makes a reservation but never shows up for their stay.

Lobby lizard

A member of staff who greets and assists guests in the lobby during busy check-in and check-out times.

.....

HALF MOON. A ROCKRESORT, JAMAICA

"Smile, you're going on stage!"

What employees tell one another when they're headed out to guest-facing areas.

WYNDHAM GRAND JUPITER AT HARBOURSIDE PLACE. **FLORIDA**

Hoo ha

As fast as possible.

Job on the line

When you're preparing for a VIP or high-ranking manager. ••••••

ONE SKI HILL PLACE, **BRECKENRIDGE, COLORADO**

Front rangers

Denverites who check in at the last minute to ski.

Weekend warriors

Local professionals who come up on weekends to ski.

Stay over

Someone who was scheduled to check out but extended his or her stay.

W HOTELS

Living room

Lobby.

Wheels

Valet. Cosy

The smallest room.

Munchie box

Minibar.

MADINAT JUMEIRAH, DUBAI

20/10 rule

Acknowledgment of a guest 20 steps away with a nod or a look, and eye contact or personal interaction when 10 steps away.

VIP 4

A regular or long-staying guest.

VIP 11

(Literal) royalty.

PARK HYATT, NEW YORK

......

Courtesy Card Holder, the top designation - given only by Hyatt ownership and execs.

A classic

A very traditional guest.

Very important pup.



JW MARRIOTT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Jdub

How staff refer to the hotel Pig in the pen

A guest stuck in the parking ramp.

Peach

A very difficult guest.

THE KITANO NEW YORK HOTEL

SVP

Super very important person - for example, Mrs Koike, the Kitano Company's President.

Unsatisfied guest.

DG

Demanding guest.

GREAT WOLF LODGES

Lodge

Hotel.

Cubs

New employees.

High paw

High five.

Dens

Rooms or suites.

Wolf pack

Loyal fans.

SUPER DRY

Inspired by trips to Zanzibar and Iceland. Yamabahari (*vama* means mountain in Japanese and *bahari* translates to sea in Swahili) is a Bulgarian family company

specialising in luxury linen beach towels and wool blankets made in Lithuania. Handy for the beach, the 100 per cent linen towel can be doubled as a shawl or a sarong and comes with a practical pocket (in a choice of colours) to hold your wallet, phone, kevs and any other essentials. "Linen towels are more absorbent and fast drying than cotton ones and are soft on your skin," says co-founder Konstantin Vulkov. "They get softer after each use, age beautifully and are really lightweight for travel."





PRIVATE Seychelles

Escape to the Seychelles for an exclusive island retreat

The Seychelles is the perfect location for an island-hopping escape and is visa-free, making it a hassle-free holiday destination. Starting on the largest island, Mahé, home to Seychelles International Airport and the picturesque capital city of Victoria, it's just a quick hop to Praslin known for its beautiful beaches and the Vallée de Mai UNESCO World Heritage Site. Close to Praslin are the exotic islands Curieuse and Cousine Island, famous for their wildlife.

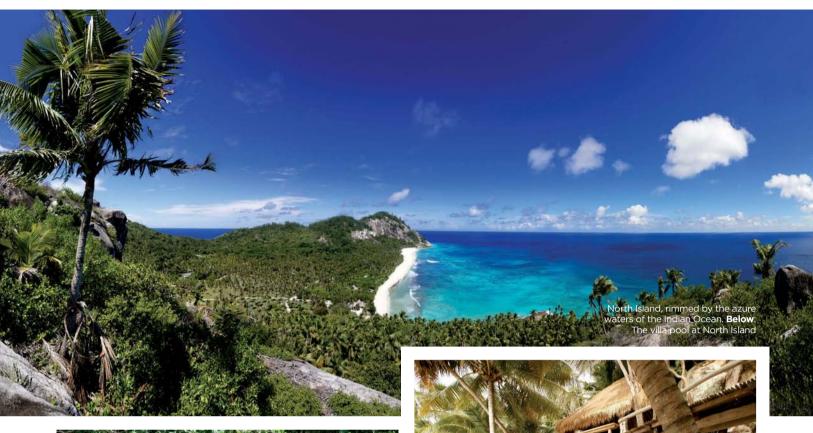
LA DIGUE

La Digue is a slow-paced, traditional island on which bicycles and ox-carts are still the main forms of transportation. The fourth largest island in the Seychelles, La Digue is just 30 minutes from Praslin, making it an ideal day excursion. It is home to beautiful, remote beaches including Anse-Source D'Argent, Grand-Anse and Petit-Anse and Anse-Coco. Colonial architecture is visible throughout the traditional island and a trip isn't complete without a visit to La Union Estate, colonial houses, copra factory and a vanilla plantation. Giant tortoises can also be found in La Digue.

FREGATE ISLAND PRIVATE

Nestled in the Indian Ocean, a 20-minute flight from Mahé, is an island that is home to one private resort. Fregate Island Private lives up to its name with just 16

TRAVELLER PROMOTION





spacious villas each featuring private butler service and an infinity pool with a Jacuzzi and sundeck. The crowning jewel of the resort is the Banyan Hill Estate: three separate villas built along cliffs and fringed by a veranda, with sweeping views from the bath tubs.

Along with pristine beaches, the island offers a number of complimentary outdoor activities like windsurfing, kayaking, hiking, mountain-biking and guided nature

walks to appreciate the indigenous flora and fauna. Well-equipped for family getaways, the resort offers babysitting services and there's a Kids Club with a number of programmes designed for three- to twelve-year-olds. While the kids are engaged, adults can unwind at Rock Spa with a rejuvenating treatment.

Experience a culinary journey at any of the resort's four food and beverage outlets: Enjoy a gournet meal made with fresh, local produce

from the island's own plantation at Fregate House, or try authentic Creole fare at Plantation House; lounge by the beach, sipping cocktails accompanied by light snacks at Anse Bambous Beach Bar or head to the resort's cellar for a tasting from an eclectic grape selection. For more information call 0049-7221-900 9922 or visit fregate.com

NORTH ISLAND

Situated on its own private island, North Island is located in the northwest of the Seychelles archipelago, a 20-minute flight from Mahé, and houses 11 private villas within a nature reserve. Each of the beautifully appointed villas features a private pool, private beach access, a plunge pool, a sundeck, a private service kitchen and indoor/outdoor showers.

There's never a dull moment, with a PADI-certified dive centre offering exotic trips to the nearby coral reefs rich with aquatic life; guests can also opt for full-day excursions for big game fishing, local island tours and wreck diving. For those wanting to kick back, tailor-made holistic spa treatments coupled with one-on-one consultations with a spa therapist are just the ticket.

For more information call 00248-429 3100 or visit north-island.com

Take a tour of Scotland's islands and riverside towns, known for their historic castles and wildlife reserves

THE ISLANDS

ISLE OF MULL

The second largest island of the Inner Hebrides, the Isle of Mull is home to Ben More or Beinn Mhòr in Scottish Gaelic, which translates to "great mountain". The capital city, Tobermory, is steeped in history, with buried treasure rumoured to be lying at the bottom of Tobermory Bay, and is the area where the peated Ledaig is produced. The Mendelssohn on Mull Festival is a musical celebration held annually each summer in commemoration of composer Felix Mendelssohn's visit in 1829 and is worth catching. Don't leave without taking a wildlife and bird-watching safari, where you'll encounter the island's puffins, sea eagles and great whales.

ISLAY

Dubbed the "Queen of the Hebrides", there's an impressive array of wildlife on this island, too. At the RSPB Loch Gruinart nature reserve, you can observe white-fronted and barnacle geese that return here from Greenland each October. Islay is also home to the Cultoon Stone Circle – a set of 15 stones excavated in the Seventies as part of an archaeoastronomy project. From the circle's south-west axis, it's possible to glimpse the Irish mountain Slieve Snaght. Before leaving, stop by the Bowmore estate and Bunnahabhain village.

KIRKWALL, ORKNEY ISLANDS

This Norse town has a port with ferry services to Aberdeen and Lerwick, and is known for its numerous historical sites, such as the St Magnus Cathedral, a fine example of Romanesque architecture that dominates the skyline and plays host to the St Magnus International Festival in June, showcasing the artistic and creative talents of professionals and community members. The Orkney Museum, another must-visit, houses prehistoric, Pictish



and Viking collections that are highly regarded internationally. Highland Park, nearby, is the northern-most local beverage estate in Scotland.

SPEYSIDE

KNOCKANDO, MORAY

This quaint village in Moray is a farming centre and home to Knockando Woolmill, which has been operational since 1784. The mill features a café, shop and workshops on abstract art, tile- and glass-painting and lantern-, felt pouch- and wallet-making. Also of interest is Tamdhu, meaning "little dark hill" in Gaelic.

CRAIGELLACHIE, MORAY

Perched on a cliff above the River Spey, the name of this village, which dates back to 1750, translates to "rocky hill" and it is home to the Macallan estate. Craigellachie is close to Balvenie Castle which, for over 500 years, served as the formidable stronghold of the many lords who ruled over this part of Scotland. The castle has survived the rule of three separate dynasties, making it one of the country's most interesting historical locations.

ROTHES, MORAY

The remains of Rothes Castle – a 13th-century structure owned by Sir Norman Leslie, which once played host to King Edward I of England – is one of the central attractions here. It has seen its share of grandeur and battles, making it a destination worth visiting. Rothes also has numerous sports clubs, including football, bowling, tennis and golf, and the Glenrothes house is based in the area.

BALLINDALLOCH, MORAY

Ballindalloch is most famous for its eponymous castle, also called the "pearl of the north". Built in 1546, Ballindalloch Castle is open to tourists in the summer and houses a fine collection of 17th-century Spanish paintings. If you dabble in the supernatural, check out the castle's dining room, rumoured to be haunted by the ghost of The Green Lady. A short drive away is the Glenlivet estate. CNT

For more information on Scotland's offerings, contact Le Clos at Terminal 3, Dubai International Airport; 00971-4-220 3633, leclos.net

TRAVELLER PROMOTION





ucked amid the Al Hajar Mountains with spectacular views across the Gulf of Oman, Al Bustan Palace guarantees an indulgent, laid-back experience with its 50m infinity pool and the longest private beach in the Sultanate.

Valid until September 23, families can take advantage of the hotel's "Summer Memories" package offering scenic double rooms equipped with top-of-the-line amenities, and a lavish breakfast buffet at Al Khiran Terrace, featuring a range of international cuisine. For younger guests, the hotel offers a Ritz Kids programme spotlighting the cultural heritage and wonders of Oman, as well as a number of fun on-site activities like table tennis, kayaking, arts and crafts, junior cooking classes and storytelling.

Variety is the name of the game with three more exciting dining outlets: the waterfront Beach Pavilion, with private cabanas for a more intimate setting; China Mood serving authentic fare from the Far East; and BLU, a poolside outlet where guests can pick from a menu of local snacks and beverages.

To enhance the mood of relaxation, Six Senses Spa, a self-contained haven just a short way from the main hotel, which opens mid-September, houses 17 treatment rooms, a private ladies-only club, including a private beach for women, and wet facilities like ice showers and hammams, all surrounded by traditional Omani architecture. With a wide range of locally inspired wellness, rejuvenation and beauty treatments, guests can while away the hours in total bliss.

For more information call 00968-24-79 9666 or visit ritzcarlton.com



Maldives in full colour







Kurumba is Maldives' very first resort. A cosmopolitan Maldivian island ideal for guests who seek hallmark features: relaxation, white sandy beaches, a crystal clear lagoon and a lively house reef combined with never ending choices of fun activities and social events.

A dining wonderland where you get to choose a delicious array of cuisines and nightly entertainment to celebrate your evenings.

CONTACT Reservations@kurumba.com www.kurumba.com

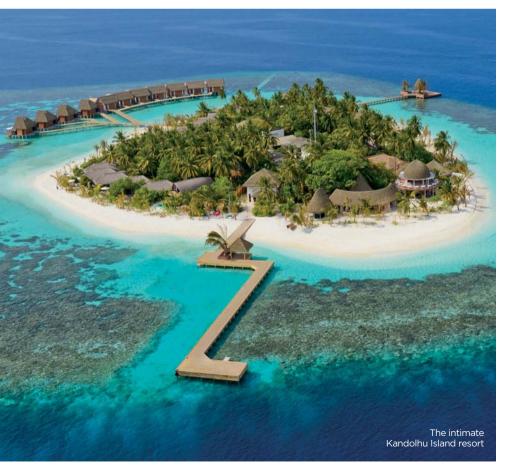
TRAVELLER PROMOTION

VELASSARU MALDIVES

Located in the South Male Atoll. a 25-minute boat ride from Male International Airport, Velassaru Maldives sits on a private 21-acre island boasting powdery white-sand beaches, panoramic views of the Indian Ocean and an expansive turquoise lagoon. A member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World group, the resort houses 129 spacious yet intimate villas and bungalows, in eight different categories, featuring contemporary design with a botanical twist. The private setting, coupled with the cinematic views makes Velassaru Maldives a haven for honeymooners. Relax in The Spa's hydropool or enjoy a couples' massage in one of 10 overwater treatment rooms. The resort also offers seven F&B outlets, each with a different culinary concept to choose from, including Japanese, International, Mediterranean, Asian and Continental cuisines.

For more information on Velassaru Maldives call 00960-665 6100 or visit velassaru.com





KANDOLHU ISLAND

Nestled in the middle of the Ari Atoll, Kandolhu Island, a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World group, houses 30 contemporary luxe villas and four gourmet dining outlets, boasting the highest restaurant-to-villa ratio in the Maldives.

Check in to a 90sqm Ocean Pool Villa, reached by its own walkway and featuring an oversized bedroom with king bed, day bed and walk-in wardrobe, and an open bathroom with a shower, twin vanity and a bathtub with a sliding door opening up to the outdoor deck and plunge pool.

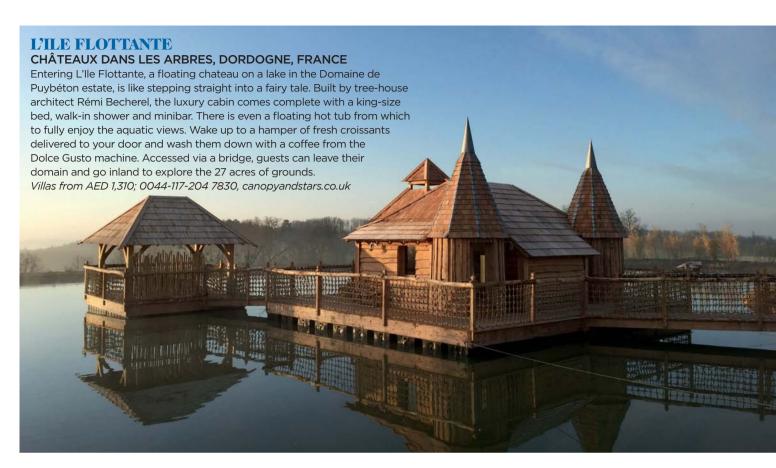
Make sure you select the Ultimate Inclusions meal plan, which offers the opportunity to dine in the resort's four intimate, à la carte restaurants. With options ranging from fresh seafood, Mediterranean, Indian and Japanese cuisines, guests can also choose between the resort's eclectic selection of beverages, which are included in the package, to accompany their meal or to be enjoyed in the privacy of their villas from the in-villa chillers.

Boasting lush foliage, sandy beaches and a colourful house reef, the resort's signature package also offers a choice between a private snorkelling tour or a romantic sunset cruise coupled with bubbly and canapés. Later, unwind at Varu Spa with a 10 per cent discount on any of the rejuvenating treatments.

For more information on Kandolhu Island call 00960-668 0790 or visit kandolhu.com









WILDERNESS RESERVE

SUFFOLK. ENGLAND

Perched beside a glistening lake on 4,500 acres of rolling parkland, Sibton Park is a grand Georgian manor house that epitomises English country chic. This summer, the estate added two new independent cottages to its accommodation options: The oak-framed, 17th-century Farmhouse features six en-suite bedrooms, a drawing room with open hearth and a country-style kitchen, while the Cartshed is a traditional oak and elm timberframed barn, lovingly restored to its historic glory, with four en-suite bedrooms and an open-plan kitchen. Aside from lakeside walks, a swimming pool, a hot tub and tennis courts round out the offerings for an active rural getaway.

House rental from AED 3,600; 0044-207-484 5700, wildernessreserve.com

KAYAL ISLAND RETREAT

KERALA, INDIA 🤚

A private island escape on Lake Vembanad, this intimate sanctuary allows you access to the tranquil Kerala backwaters by a private rowing boat. The two waterfront cottages are outfitted with stunning outdoor bathrooms and finished with reclaimed teak furniture and local art. There are shared dining and reading spaces, and tree-lined gardens with lakeside views as the backdrop. At meal times, traditional dishes are prepared using locally sourced ingredients, including organic rice and vegetables, and fish and seafood caught from the riverbanks. Villas from AED 440; 0091-773-600 0989, silkrouteabodes.com





JICARO ISLAND ECOLODGE

NICARAGUA

Enveloped by lush rainforest, this newly renovated private island property overlooks the strikingly serene surrounds of Lake Nicaragua. The nine private *casitas* are two-storey hideaways with a private bedroom and a spacious living area connected to an outdoor deck with a hammock and views over the water. Sustainable luxury is the philosophy of this eco lodge, which uses local products and solar energy. Guests can enjoy yoga classes and a range of tours and excursions, taking them from hot springs to volcano treks. In addition to a pool and wellness centre, there's a restaurant as well as private dining on a floating deck.

Villas from AED 1,470; 00505-2558 7652, jicarolodge.com CNT



LOOK FORWARD

Two more lakeside openings, coming soon



WALLCOURT, INNS OF AURORA FINGER LAKES, NEW YORK

Tucked neatly along Cayuga Lake, the newest Inns of Aurora property will be an exclusive 17-room residence, providing guests with a host of outdoor activities from boat trips on the lake to cycling in the countryside.

Scheduled to open autumn 2015



TRI LANKA RESORT LAKE KOGGALA, SRI LANKA

Tipped to be Sri Lanka's first sustainable luxury design hotel, with an envious location on the banks of Koggala Lake, guests at this 10-room bolthole will be able to go kayaking, canoeing and fishing in the surrounding waters.

Scheduled to open November 2015







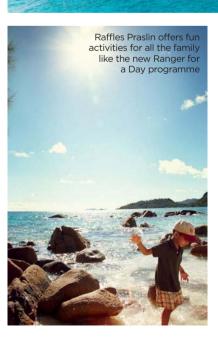
that teaches you how to distinguish between males and females, estimate ages and partake in tagging and census collection. Head over to the Marine Rangers' Village to learn how to inspect coral farms and transplantation sites on a snorkelling tour, then enjoy a traditional Seychellois lunch followed by a scenic trek to Anse St. Jose, ending with a patrol of the marine park waters on an SNPA boat to view some of the island's original granite formations like Lizard and Turtle Rock.

Mini-rangers can embark on their own adventure with a half-day experience on Curieuse Island where they'll interact with the island's tortoises, plant some trees and enjoy a nature walk with a Raffles Ranger, learning

about the wildlife of Seychelles. Don't forget the SNPA-stamped Ranger for a Day certificate as a memento.

Back at the resort, retreat to the Raffles Spa with its jewel-of-the-sea theme – symbolising calmness and stability – and 13 treatment pavilions, offering sweeping views of the ocean, tropical gardens and granite formations. A rejuvenation haven, the spa also houses two suites fitted with steam showers, Japanese soaking tubs and private observation decks where guests can unwind while enjoying the scenic views.

For more information call 00248-429 6780 or visit raffles.com/praslin



BED-HOPPING WITH... Alberta Ferretti

The Italian fashion designer on her top traditional retreats



1 LA MAMOUNIA, MARRAKECH

"I prefer older, more traditional-style properties that have a past and a story, like this heritage hotel from the 13th century. The hospitality and service are amazing and I enjoy retreating to La Mamounia's magical 20-acre park." Doubles from AED 1,700; 00212-52-438 8600, mamounia.com

THE PENINSULA NEW YORK

"The Peninsula has a great spa with the best massages in town, and the Bar at Clement serves a wide selection of fresh, organic cocktails, I like the corner rooms on each floor, ending in 16, because they are on Fifth Avenue and have views of Central Park"



Doubles from AED 2.185: 001-212-956 2888. newyork.peninsula.com

CLARIDGE'S

Art Deco hotel in the heart of Mayfair. The service is great and at Thierry Despont's Foyer are delicious."



• RELAIS PALAZZO VIVIANI

"In a medieval hilltop village on the east coast of Italy, close to Cattolica, is my hotel, which we transformed from a crumbling castle into a unique property. The castle is perched in the middle of the hill and only has eight rooms. It allows you a glimpse of how life was in the 13th century. We have four-poster beds with fireplaces in each room and the Italian cuisine is excellent." Doubles from AED 275: 0039-054-185 5350, palazzoviviani.com



CHATEAU MARMONT **HOTEL & BUNGALOWS**

"Chateau Marmont reminds me of everything that is very LA. The service is fantastic and you always meet celebrities - the last time I was there I met Scarlett Johansson. I also visit the restaurant's garden terrace, which is perfect for al fresco dining." Doubles from AED 1,600; 001-323-656 1010, chateaumarmont.com

NO THANKS

I don't like modern hotel buildings as they can often lack character



"I love everything British, and Claridge's is a beautiful, traditional the breakfast and afternoon tea Doubles from AED 1,970; 0044-20-7629 8860, claridges.co.uk



Pure paradise for a truly relaxing holiday. Our special package at only USD 2,680 for stays between 01 September and 30 November 2015 includes:

- 4 night stay at Park Villa for couple
- Free upgrade to Park Pool Villa subject to availability at the time of reservation
- Complimentary breakfast at The Dining Room
- Returned domestic transfers for couple
- Service charge and tax at 23.2%

Additional green tax at USD 6 per person per night will be charged for stays in November.

To book, please call +960 682 1234 or email reservations.parkhadahaa@hyatt.com and mention promotional code "CNT-2015"

PARK HYATT MALDIVESTM

HADAHAA

luxury is personal



TRAVELLER PROMOTION





Set in the North Malé Atoll on the private island of Lankanfushi, Gili Lankanfushi Maldives, winner of TripAdvisor's 2015 Travelers' Choice Award "Best Hotel In The World", is an exotic seascape just a 20-minute boat ride from Malé International Airport. Housing 45 spacious overwater villas, the crowning jewel of the resort is its largest overwater villa – The Private Reserve.

Perched in the middle of a turquoise blue lagoon and spanning a total area of 1,400sqm, The Private Reserve is located 300m from the closest villa and is accessible only via boat. Offering uninterrupted, sweeping views of the Indian Ocean and housing two master suites spotlighting a twoperson bathtub over coral gardens as well as ceiling and floor-to-ceiling windows on three sides, the residence also features a guestroom with en-suite bathroom, an air-conditioned gym, a private cinema, sundeck and spa featuring a sauna, steam room and an indoor/ outdoor treatment pavilion. Along with a fully-equipped kitchen and an on-call 24-hour personal butler service, residents will also have access to private motorised boats. The villa also features a rooftop terrace with daybed and two outdoor dining pavilions as well as a top-deck water slide that opens out into the

private lagoon swimming area. Upon arrival, residents are also invited to design their own grape list from the resort's collection of 400 labels.

Embark on a culinary journey with any of the four on-site dining outlets offering a wide array of experiences from Mediterranean-Asian cuisine at the Main Restaurant and Japanese cuisine at By the Sea to the fresh, local snacks at the Over Water Bar and a memorable dinner at the Underground Wine Cellar and Chocolate Cave. Or unwind at the holistic Meera Spa featuring six overwater treatment rooms, yoga, steam and sauna rooms as well as a relaxation area with a panoramic view of the ocean.

From November 1, 2015-June 30, 2016, guests can indulge in a truly luxurious experience at The Private Reserve with luxury transfers to and from Malé International Airport, complimentary bubbly and canapés on arrival as well as daily breakfast at the Main Restaurant or in-villa. Included are regular yoga sessions, non-motorised water sports and a sunset cocktail party held on Tuesdays – starting from AED 43,340.

For more information call 00960-664 0304 or visit gili-lankanfushi.com

SEVILLE Five period hotels in Andalusia's historic capital



Opened last September, **Hotel Boutique Palacio**

Pinello lies in a converted palace in the barrio Santa Cruz. Here. 15th-century architecture meets modern

with an automated lighting system, digital showers

technology

and free Wi-Fi. Minutes from Casa de los Pinelo, Alcázar and Seville Cathedral, the hotel offers

scenic views of the Giralda.

palacio pinello.com



BOUTIQUE



SPLURGE

CORRAL DEL REY

Location

In the romantic spider's web of cobbled streets and tapas bars in barrio Alfalfa, a short stroll from the cathedral and Real Alcázar

Décor

Set in two casa palacios on either side of a narrow, cobbled alley. The 17th-century original house has a three-storey internal hall with pretty arcaded balconies - bijou boho in the most stylish sense

Clientele

Loved by well-heeled American and British honeymooners and city breakers, the hotel has welcomed countless A-listers but its owners are too discreet to name names

Rooms

Just 13 rooms in a chic mix of cherry-picked antiques and natural fabrics with limed-oak floors. The penthouse has swoon-inducing views of the Giralda (and a hot tub)

Food &

There's no restaurant, but breakfast (try the divine pastelitos de crema catalana) is served in the rooftop garden; dinner is also available on request

Strengths

Staff give you the inside track on the city everything from a cookery class to an in-hotel flamenco show can be arranged

Weaknesses

Some of the smaller rooms in the original building can feel poky, particularly when the Andalusian heat takes hold

Wi-Fi **Price**

Doubles from AED 795 Contact

Corral del Rey, 12 Seville, Andalucia, 41004; 0034-954-22 7116, corraldelrey.com

HOTEL ALFONSO XIII, A LUXURY COLLECTION HOTEL

Close to the cathedral and the banks of the Guadalquivir, and opposite the Puerta de Jerez, a remnant of one of the old Roman gates to the city

Moorish maximalism -

azulejo tiles, wood-coffered ceilings and acres of marble adorn this grande duquesa built by King Alfonso

Pictures of former guests line the walls of its corridors: countless European royals, Orson Welles, Tom Cruise, Brad Pitt, the list goes on

The 151 guest rooms are inspired by three themes: Castilian, Andalusian Baroque and Moorish The latter's Arabic motifs and muted tones are the most successful

The weekly Sunday brunch at San Fernando restaurant is a local event, and you'll see sophisticates sipping orange-blossom-infused cocktails at Bar Americano

The tropical gardens, verdant with orange, jasmine and banana trees, and the big pool are a major plus in the city centre

This is the place for society weddings, when it can seem a little impersonal

Doubles from AED 1,225

San Fernando, 2 Seville, 41004; 0034-954-91 7000, starwoodhotels.com

CONTEMPORARY

GRAN MELIÁ HOTEL, COLÓN

In the middle of Seville's commercial district

on the lively thoroughfare of *calle* Canalejas, near must-sees such as the Museum of Fine Arts and river Guadalquivir

Belle Époque meets Neo-Baroque, but the 1929 white wedding-cake exterior belies the stridently modern look inside, with playful Philippe Starck- and Moooidesigned furniture

The hotel is a local institution where *toreros* once prepared before a bullfight. **Ava Gardner, Hugh Grant and Eva Longoria**have all slipped between its sheets

The 189 rooms are decorated in a **minimalist palette of white, black and grey**, with delightful touches of Baroque and flashes of gold or red. Bathrooms are wall-to-wall black-and-white marble

In keeping with the *torero* theme, oxtail stew is one of the standout dishes at the clubby El Burladero restaurant, which serves **traditional tapas with a twist, including yeal cheeks with aubergine**

The superb views over the city from a sun lounger on the terrace of the seventh-floor spa – absolute bliss

It's a popular spot for business meetings and conferences, so **can feel a bit corporate**, **particularly on weekdays**

Free

Doubles from AED 815

Canalejas, 1 Seville, 41001; 0034-954-50 5599, **melia.com**



CHARACTER

HOTEL CASA 1800

In the classical medieval *barrio* Santa Cruz, all tiny streets and tapas bars, and **one of**Seville's most charming and buzzing

neighbourhoods

A jewel of a house built in 1864 for a wealthy Sevillano aristocrat with a pretty courtyard crowned by a huge twinkling chandelier, lots of marble, azulejo tiles and terracotta floors

Weekending couples from all corners of Europe (you probably won't be bumping into the glamorous likes of Penélope Cruz at reception here)

Of the 33 rooms, book the Deluxe Room for its gold and cream velvets, floor-to-ceiling windows, exposed brick walls and mezzanine living room with a small terrace and Jacuzzi

It serves breakfast and afternoon tea only, but there are excellent tapas bars nearby: try Bar Las Teresas for its dangling jamón and Casablanca for its garlicky prawns

The address is pretty much perfect, near the cathedral; and the rooftop terrace has the all-important Giralda view

The price of convenience is it's **located in a busy part of town**, particularly in high season

Free

Doubles from **AED 570**

Rodrigo Caro, 6 Seville, 41004; 0034-954-56 1800, hotelcasa1800sevilla.com



GOOD VALUE

HOTEL HOSPES LAS CASAS DEL REY DE BAEZA

Overlooking the tranquil, cobbled Jesús de la Redención Square in a quiet corner of the barrio Santa Cruz. It's a short walk from the stunning Casa de Pilatos palace

The traditional esparto-grass blinds set the tone for this hotel, housed in a whitewashed, 18th-century two-storey corral de vecinos arranged around two internal courtyards

A mixture of British, French and German sightseers, families and **well-informed business travellers**: Massimo Dutti meets Loewe

There are 41 rooms, done up in a **refined**, **rustic style with wrought-iron bedsteads**, **sisal mats and stone floors**. You will definitely be pocketing the covetable Korres toiletries

There's a tapas bar, restaurant and 24-hour room service. The restaurant does fusion tapas – the meaty croquetas de puchero house speciality is worth ordering

The nearby bike-rentals are perfect for exploring car-free central Seville; and the **Bodyna Spa has a cute rooftop pool**

It's a little out of the way and major sights such as **the cathedral and Alcázar are a bit of a trek**

Free

Doubles from AED 595

Plaza Jesús de la Redención, 2 Seville, 41003; 0034-954-56 1496, **hospes.com**





comfortable and joyful. The designs reflect the multiple shades of blue that occur naturally, from the warm waters of the Arabian Sea to the chilly depths of the Atlantic Ocean.

INDIAN AND ATLANTIC OCEANS

Merging the warm currents of the Indian Ocean with the invigorating spray of the Atlantic led to the creation of these stylish diamond-studded pieces: the Pangée earrings capture the rhythmic rolling of the waves, while the Pangee necklace was inspired by the iconic Ocean tiara/necklace, which Van Cleef created specifically for Princess Charlene of Monaco, as a gift from Prince Albert. The Benguerra Long necklace and bracelet represent the meeting of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans; the Fée des Mers clip depicts

Red Sea Kizil

Long necklace

Focusing on the intensity of the waves of the Arabian Sea, Van Cleef & Arpels' white gold Mer des Étoiles ring features a double spiral around a Sri Lankan sapphire, surrounded by meticulously cut stones and accentuating the aquatic interplay of colours. The sapphireencrusted Trois Tortues clip and Étoile de Mer clip represent the flora and fauna of the Arabian Sea, with the positioning of the white mother-of-pearl turtles giving the piece a sense of life, while the pear-shaped diamonds along the edges of the starfish evoke the rocky movement of the waves.

RED SEA

Inspired by the reflection of the sun across the glittering waters of the Red Sea, the Kizil



Long necklace, Goutte de Spinelle ring and Coquillage Mystérieux ring all feature rubies. While the necklace interprets a sunset in the sea, the Goutte de Spinelle ring features a cavalcade of glittering stones highlighting the curves and colour of the central gem. The crowning jewel of the Red Sea collection is the Coquillage Mystérieux ring, with the intense colour of Mystery Set rubies adorning the clamshell design. It also features a mechanism that allows it to be opened, revealing a series of blue and mauve sapphires with a star of sparkling diamonds.

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

The Clapotis necklace and Rouleau Azur bracelet capture the vivid shades of blue of the Mediterranean Sea. The necklace features a detachable pearl, allowing the wearer to customise it to suit different occasions, while the bracelet's braided structure gives

it high flexibility, mirroring the image of a breaking wave. The Sirène Mystérieuse clip and Flamant Corail necklace and earrings represent the myths and legends of marine life with the clip featuring a rose-cut, diamond-studded mermaid while the pink gold flamingo necklace (which can also be worn as a clip) is a nod to the graceful inhabitants of the Mediterranean shoreline.

ADRIATIC SEA

Incorporating the aquamarine hues of the Adriatic Sea, the Lagune Précieuse necklace and earrings combine sapphires and diamonds, resulting in a luminous mosaic. The Adria ring, of Zambian origin, is illuminated by the blue of the Paraiba-like tourmalines. The Ancône ring, beaded with turquoise, is inspired by the landscapes of the ancient Italian town of Ancona and features a 3.28k Colombian emerald rising from its centre.

BLACK SEA

The Rose des Vents Long necklace represents sailing across the Black Sea at night, underneath the moonlight, with the white cultured pearls and onyx evoking the sparkle of sleeping waters. The Nageur Noir et Blanc clip and Rivage Noir et Blanc bracelet depict the fauna and shores of the Black Sea, incorporating white gold, diamonds and sapphires.

CASPIAN SEA

Influenced by the stormy, velvety blues of the Caspian Sea, the Bleu Absolu necklace features five Kashmiri sapphires, cascading like beads of water from the central pendant, and can be worn in various ways. The Vagues Mystérieuses clip presents a soft palette of blues, with tight spirals and diamonds and sapphires dotting the edge, recalling rolling surf.

For more information visit vancleefarpels.com



ON THE BOARDWALK

With pretty prints and functional materials, these totes make schlepping around sunscreen, beach towels and your summer paperback a breeze





AUGUST 2015 CONDÉ NAST TRAVELLER 67

Travel in style

STYLE GUIDE - HOW TO PACK - SHOUROUK Linen Hawaiian print tote, AED 880, Vanessa Bruno Palm print tote. AED 1,452, Tomas Maier at matchesfashion com Canvas and leather tote, AED 1,545 **Mansur Gavriel** at matchesfashion.com



Stand out from the crowd with a pop of tangerine, perfect for the summer and still on trend come autumn



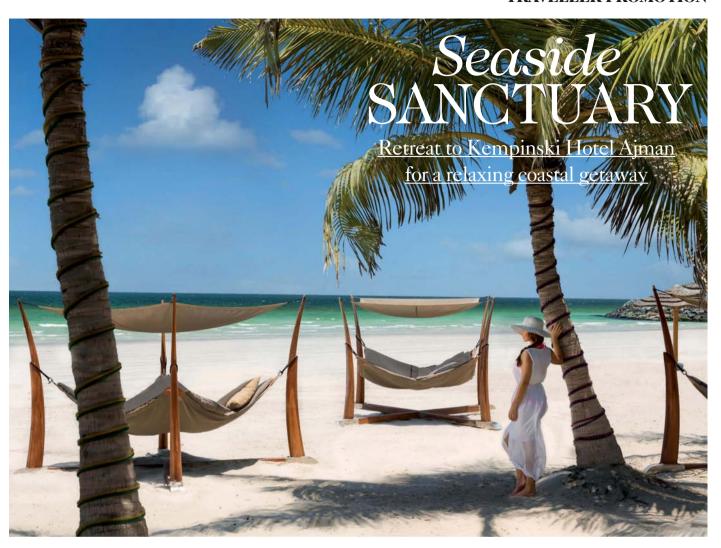


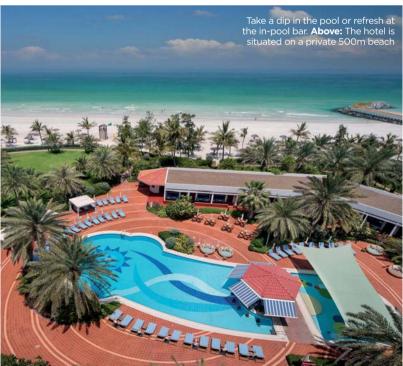






TRAVELLER PROMOTION





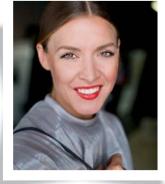
n oasis on the shore of the shimmering Arabian Gulf, Kempinski Hotel Ajman is only a short drive from Dubai yet miles from the hustle and bustle. Complete with a 500m, private white sand beach and plenty of water sports opportunities, the resort houses 180 sea-facing rooms and suites in traditional Arabian style, plus 10 food and beverage outlets offering a range of European, Mediterranean, Asian and Middle Eastern cuisines.

Take a leisurely stroll along the sugary sand and soak up the sun at one of the largest private beaches in the UAE, charter a yacht for a bit of adventure, ride the waves on a jet ski or learn sailing tricks from the resort's highly skilled instructor. Kempinski The Spa offers an exceptional Balinese beach massage along the shore, guaranteed to pamper all your senses and leave you feeling rejuvenated.

As well as enjoying Indian cuisine at Bukhara, Chinese at Hai Tao and afternoon tea at Café on First, guests can book a private, intimate dinner on the beach at sunset, where the lapping waves, flickering candles and a three-course meal will come together to create an unforgettable experience. End your evening at Zanzi Bar for a signature cocktail with sweeping views of the Gulf.

For more information call 00971-6-714 5555 or visit kempinski.com





biza may have a reputation for its all-night raves, but it also has a more laid-back side with chilled sunset bars and beautiful beaches, all of which feature on Shustova's itinerary. A boho skirt, cool printed swimwear and a sun hat are as appropriate on the sands of Las Salinas, Cala Bassa and Cala Comte as they are for a boat ride to the island of Formentera for lunch at Juan y Andrea, which serves Mediterranean

fare in a brilliant blue bay. Come sunset, she changes up her look with a coordinating cropped blouse and floaty trousers for dinner and a cabaret show at Lio. A pop of red lipstick, a sweep of shimmery bronzer and a pair of comfy heels ensure she's ready to dance the night away at Beach House, Pacha, Matinee or SuperMartXe. And a good serum and oversized sunglasses are essentials for the morning after.

1 Blouse, AED 1,615, trousers, AED 2,045; both Rag & Bone at Boutique 1 2 Pineapple bag, AED 1,310, Kate Spade 3 Hat, AED 975, Goé at Harvey Nichols 4 Beach towel, AED 695, Missoni at Harvey Nichols 5 Beats by Dr. Dre Solo2 Wireless headphones, AED 1,299 at Virgin Megastore 6 Kiehl's Hydro-Plumping Re-Texturising Serum Concentrate, AED 232 7 Carlina sunglasses, AED 1,790, Chloé 8 Tom Ford Lip Color in Wild Ginger, AED 245 9 Swimsuit, AED 1,500, Lenny Niemeyer at Praias Boutique 10 Orange cover-up wrap, AED 250, Salinas at Praias Boutique 11 Bobbi Brown Shimmer Brick Compact, AED 255 12 Skirt, AED 2,160, OTT at s*uce 13 Shoes, AED 2,930, Tod's













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A 7 night holiday for two with luxury tour operator Scott Dunn to the stunning NIYAMA in the Maldives

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In association with











Hidden gems

Known for her striking statement accessories and a jewel-encrusted make-up line for Sephora,

Shourouk Rhaiem reveals her jet-set beauty secrets and which country left a lasting impression

Tunisia-born, Paris-based Rhaiem founded her accessories brand Shourouk - meaning "sunrise" in Arabic - in 2007 and recently collaborated with Sephora on a limitededition beauty collection. Recognised for her bold use of colour and Swarovski crystals, with fans including Sarah Jessica Parker and Michelle Obama, Rhaiem scours the globe for trinkets and treasures that inspire her collections.

What do you like to bring back from your travels?

I have plates from all around the world, including many from the Chatuchak Weekend Market in Bangkok. I collect them. I also have thousands of colourful, jingling bangles from India, and Fornasetti candles from Italy. Tunisia always inspires me with its beautiful embroidery. I bought some wicker bags at the souk, I love the beautiful colours and handmade work.

What's in your travel beauty kit?

Orofluido Beauty Elixir, an argan oil with a vanilla scent that makes my hair shiny; YSL Touche Éclat, which illuminates jet-lagged skin; Guerlain Meteorites, with little pearls of powder that brighten skin; and Annick Goutal Néroli fragrance, which instantly transports me to the Mediterranean.

Describe your vacation beauty routine.

It's all about a clean, fresh face for me on holiday. I love Sephora Detoxifying & Oxygenating Bubble Mask - the gel turns into thousands of micro bubbles and tickles your skin. I also use my mum's illuminating and detoxing masks made from natural papaya, Orofluido

AED 130

Beauty Elixir,

Shourouk for Sephora Colour

Hit Nail Polish, AED 33

EPHORA



Above: Villa Dar Zargouni in Tunisia

'In Paris, I like to go to the hammam at Les Cent Ciels. It has oriental décor and feels like home'

strawberry, banana and olive oil. Then I finish with Santa Maria Novella Acqua di Rosa rose water, which leaves my skin feeling fresh with a delicate scent and allows it to breathe.

What do you never leave home without?

My lipstick. I'm crazy about lipsticks and keep one in every bag, in the pockets of my coats, you'll even find

them in the kitchen. They're all more or less the same colour – a vibrant red-orange – but Rouge Dior in Trafalgar is my signature.

Where do you go to relax?

Villa Dar Zargouni in Tunisia is so relaxing. I always come back full of energy with my battery recharged. In Paris, I like to go to the hammam at Les Cent Ciels. It has oriental décor and feels like home as I used to go to the hammam in Tunisia with my mother and grandmother.

What's the most beautiful destination you've ever visited?

Nepal was amazing with such natural beauty and lovely people. When I heard about the recent earthquake, I made a donation to help local families rebuild their homes and get medical assistance, food and water so they can start again. CNT







BEST FOR BEYOND-THE-BEACH ADVENTURES

Shangri-La's Villingili Resort & Spa, Maldives

Not many people know this, but down at the southern tip of this 800km island chain there's a small airport called Gan. It sits in the heart-shaped lagoon of the Addu Atoll and welcomes around 10 private jets a month, along with scheduled flights from Malé. Most passengers head straight for the five-star cocoon of Villingili with a sense of space unusual in the Maldives. About 3km long, Villingili has thousands of coconut palms and immaculately kept white sands, and every guest gets a bicycle to pedal off to CHI. The Spa for a coconut-milk-and-honey wrap, or to wobble home on after a lobster dinner. Villas are on the beach, over the water and even up a tree, and there are dolphin cruises, wreck-diving, sailing in a 70ft yacht and a nine-hole golf course. But what makes Villingili really stand out is the four other islands just a short boat ride away, providing a rare insight into local life as you cycle through villages and nose about a Sixties RAF base. **NUMBER OF VILLAS 142**

TRANSFER TIME 1 hour, 10 minutes by plane from Malé to Gan, then five minutes by speedboat Doubles from AED 2,000; 00960-689 7888, shangri-la.com/male/villingiliresort ▶



BEST FOR SERIOUS FOODIES

Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, Maldives

Exquisitely presented shellfish and wahoo fish are now pretty standard at five-star Maldivian resorts, but here chef Sheroy Kermani takes food artistry to new heights, a fact recognised across the island nation. Seafood creations such as medallions of Maldivian reef lobster with cornichon ratatouille appear on his menus alongside thyme-marinated quail with caramalised orange. This is fusion food of dexterous ingenuity. The long, thin island (it measures 700m by 70m) has been cleverly planted with jade trees and sea hibiscus that need only scant supplies of water, with the two restaurants, bar and infinity pool on the western side (for sunsets) and the beautiful villas on the east coast. The water is an astonishing shade of aquamarine thanks to the island's setting on one of the Maldives' largest lagoons (it's a short boat ride to the nearest reef for snorkelling), and it's calm and safe for small children. The hotel also has two separate suites for couples at the excellent Jiva Grande Spa on the southern tip of the island. NUMBER OF VILLAS 54 overwater, 10 beach TRANSFER TIME 15 minutes by speedboat from Malé Doubles from AED 3,305; 00960-664 2200, taihotels.com

BEST FOR FUN-LOVING FAMILIES

Viceroy Maldives

Any resort in the Maldives will teach you how to dive, but night snorkelling is something special, even at AED 290 a session. And how about crab-racing to raise money for local islanders? Excellent! Or feeding Clifford the blind turtle? Bring him on! Run with a light touch by genial general manager Lukasz Prendke (formerly at Malaysia's Pangkor Laut Resort), the family-friendly Viceroy gets the tone just right. The beaches might look a bit patchy in places - the sands shift with every storm in the Maldives - but that's a minor blemish. In compensation, there's a glorious glass box of a library with hundreds of art. fashion and design books and novels, plus the Treehouse, a ramshackle restaurant-onstilts of the type pioneered by Soneva Fushi, which pleases both children playing pirates on the suspension bridge and grown-ups ordering cold drinks and hot mezze. The villas are so big, some guests worry they have been inadvertently upgraded and will have to pay extra, but all that space, including big bathrooms (indoor and out), a decent-sized plunge pool and a shaded dining area, comes as standard, as does free Wi-Fi, which makes the Viceroy surprisingly good value.

NUMBER OF VILLAS 61

TRANSFER TIME 50 minutes by

seaplane from Malé

Doubles from AED 3,120; 00960-654 5000, viceroyhotelsandresorts.com/en/maldives





BEST FOR ECO-WARRIOR SURF DUDES

Six Senses Laamu

The Maldives is more famous for romantic sunsets than right-handers, but Six Senses - the only resort in the southern Laamu Atoll - sets itself apart with its Yin Yang surf break. There's also paddleboarding and catamaran sailing, alongside the usual dive boats and house reef snorkelling. Its eco-agenda means that Six Senses does the at-times-clichéd Robinson Crusoe rustic look with feeling: to discourage the use of air-con, the beds are draped in gauzy white canopies and there are wooden slats in the walls to open at night and catch the breeze; the thatched roofs are also low-

slung to keep things shady and cool. Of course, there's no shortage of comforts – a 100-plus cocktail menu at the bar, a grape-and-cheese tower, a sensational sushi restaurant – but the vibe is very laid-back compared to some of the Maldives' more flashy resorts. And nowhere more so than in the spa, where it's all too easy to hole up in one of the thatched, nest-like pods for hours on end.

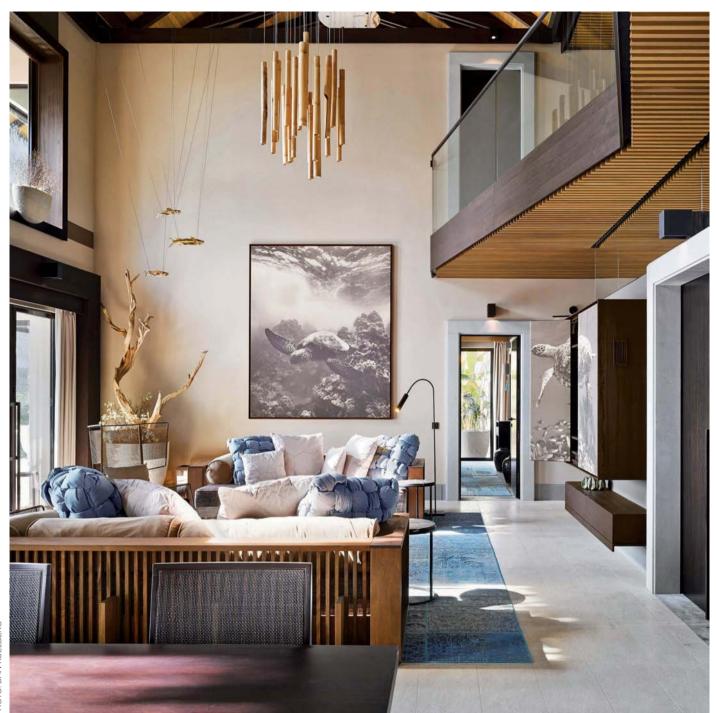
NUMBER OF VILLAS 72 overwater, 25 beach

TRANSFER TIME 35 minutes from Malé by seaplane, then 15 minutes by boat

Doubles from AED 3,840; 00960-680 0800, sixsenses.com/resorts/laamu/destination▶







BEST FOR BOYS WHO LOVE TOYS

Velaa Private Island

One of the most expensive resorts in the Maldives is owned by 44-year-old Czech billionaire Jiri Smejc, who asked his villa butler at Huvafen Fushi to find him an island. He then hired a hot-shot general manager, Hans Cauchi from the Corinthia in London, installed his former butler front-of-house, and brought in 500 Czech builders for six months. The result? State-of-the-art boys' toys (not even glossy rivals Cheval Blanc or One&Only Reethi Rah have a Seabob or semi-submarine); a Clarins spa with expert therapists, an ocean-view sauna, snow room and snooze pod; a nine-hole golf course; tennis and squash courts; an extraordinary three-storey grape tower with a 6,000-bottle, AED 5.7m inventory (including a 1956 Romanée-Conti

for AED 123,400); and Aragu, an overwater, open-kitchen restaurant and Cru Champagne Lounge with a French chef. Some design elements are straight out of a granny flat in Prague: suede-effect giant-weave cushions; patchwork carpets; the hanging chair and three massive vases you have to dodge to get to the bath. But the outdoor bathrooms are quite wonderful, and four-bedroom villas plus top-notch security are great for those who must factor in space for the bodyguard and long-range-lens issues. Saudi's crown prince was among the first guests to arrive when the resort opened in December 2013.

NUMBER OF VILLAS 45

TRANSFER TIME 45 minutes by seaplane from Malé Doubles from AED 7,000; 00960-656 5000, velaaprivateisland.com





BEST FOR THE A-LIST

One&Only Reethi Rah

When you spot a woman in Prada getting off one of the seaplanes arriving at Malé airport, it's almost certain she'll have been staying at Reethi Rah. The hotel is deeply glamorous: guests dress up for dinner in its dimly lit, gently gleaming environs, and sometimes for breakfast, lunch and dive school, too. Super-smart, with its stone baths designed for two, often with a royal in residence (never seen but identifiable by uniformed bodyguards sitting outside the villa), this is an immense hotel, with 12 beaches and a busy marina where big inflatables can be hired. There's a Zen Japanese spa where you can detox, and an amazing teen zone with ping-pong tables and all kinds of water sports. Since it opened, a cookery school has been added and its overwater villas now have pools, but the beach pool villas are still the best: thrillingly big and impressive, they have wardrobes and shoe space to match.

NUMBER OF VILLAS 130

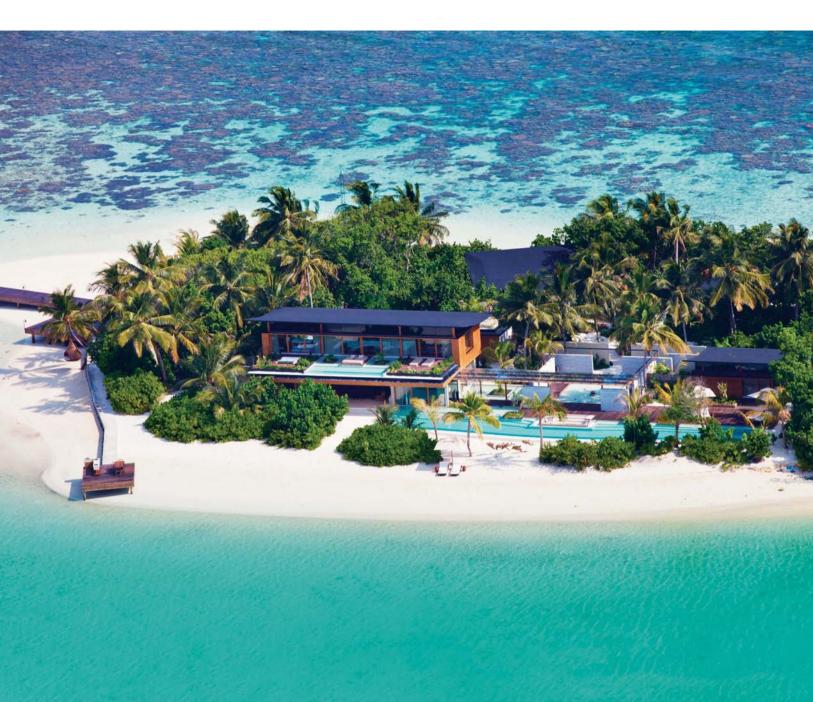
TRANSFER TIME 1 hour, 15 minutes from Malé by yacht, or 15 minutes by seaplane Doubles from AED 5,510; 00960-664 8800, reethirah.oneandonlyresorts.com





88 CONDÉ NAST TRAVELLER AUGUST 2015





BEST FOR BIG GROUPS WITH BUOYANT BANK BALANCES

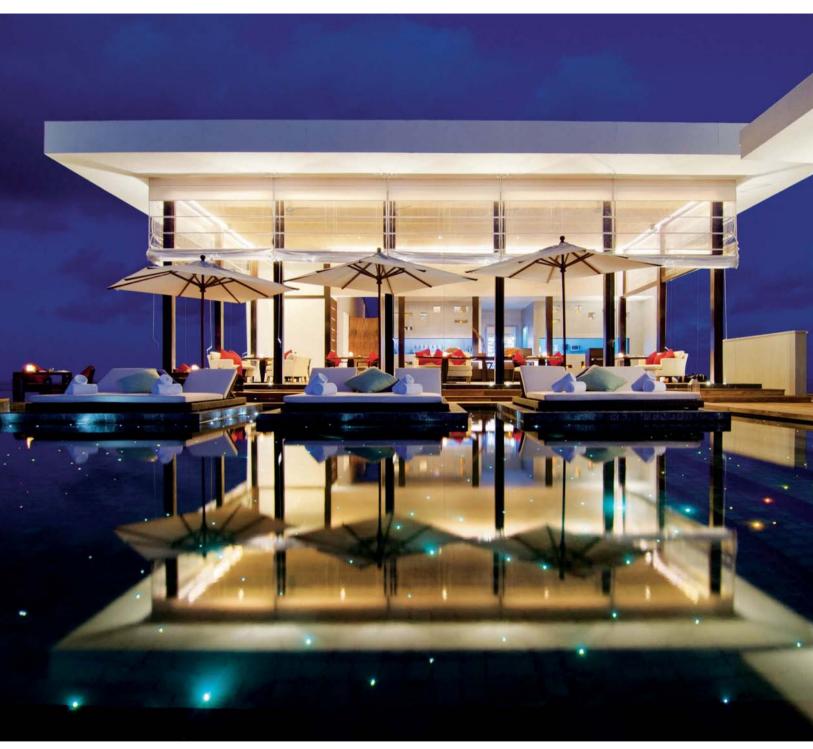
Coco Privé Kuda Hithi Island

The ludicrously pretty and impossibly slick Coco Privé Kuda Hithi is only available for private hire. Previously a boutique hotel, the island's main building has an enormous master suite, and there are five other villas to fill. The architecture is stunning, with massive expanses of glass to draw the outside in, and natural materials and organic shapes to echo the surroundings. Every light, heat-source and sound setting can be zapped from your personal iPad, and the attention to detail is phenomenal (the place is repainted between every stay). The kitchen is yours to use, but the chef

is brilliant and will prepare anything you want (stories include a specific variety of apple being flown in at a guest's request), such as baked red snapper in aromatic herbs, and banana fritters with sweet crêpes in caramel. Sun-bleached decking around the island leads to mini jungle paths where pretty wicker baubles dangle, red flowers burst and the resident fruit bat swings from palm to palm. As a bonus, the reef is monitored by a team of experts who know each turn and turtle intimately.

NUMBER OF VILLAS 6

TRANSFER TIME 40 minutes by speedboat from Malé *Private hire from AED 74,700; 00960-797 6750, cocoprive.com*▶



BEST FOR BOND BADDIES (WITH LOTS OF LUGGAGE)

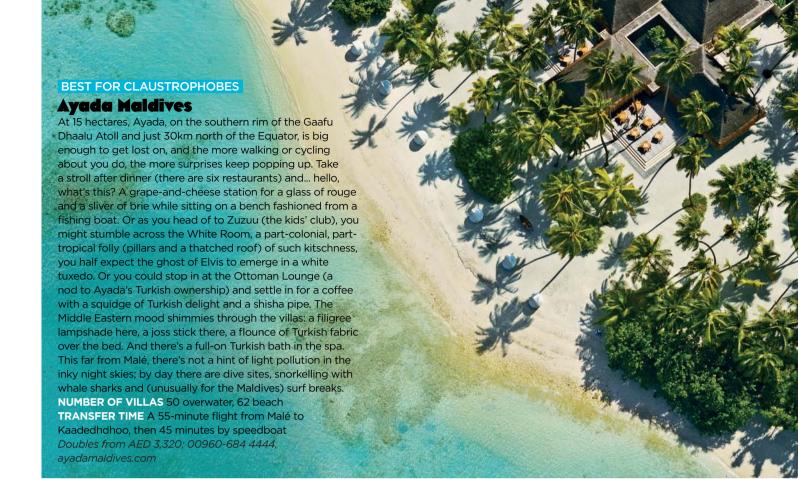
Jumeirah Dhevanafushi

Set in the remote southern Gaafu Alifu Atoll, this island is so small you could stroll its white-sand circumference in 15 minutes. But what it lacks in size, it makes up for in swank: the beds are stonking 3m wide, and the vast wardrobes indicate that most guests do not travel light and may be unfamiliar with the notion of unpacking themselves. Each of the villas has a private pool and a mind-reading butler. The Talise Spa and gym sits in the ocean at the end of an octopus-like tentacle; and 800m out to sea, unconnected to the island, are The Ocean Pearls: 16 overwater villas that might have

been dreamt up by Ian Fleming, with a private spa, bar and Johara restaurant serving Japanese fusion food. There are another two restaurants on the island itself, Azara and Mumayaz, serving Wagyu beef, foie gras and truffles to folks who order bottles of Dom Pérignon, barefoot but wearing watches worth the GDP of a small African country.

NUMBER OF VILLAS 35

TRANSFER TIME Either a 55-minute domestic flight from Malé to Kaadedhdhoo followed by a 15-minute speedboat transfer, or a direct seaplane flight that takes 1 hour 45 minutes from Malé Doubles from AED 3,525; 00960-682 8800, jumeirah.com







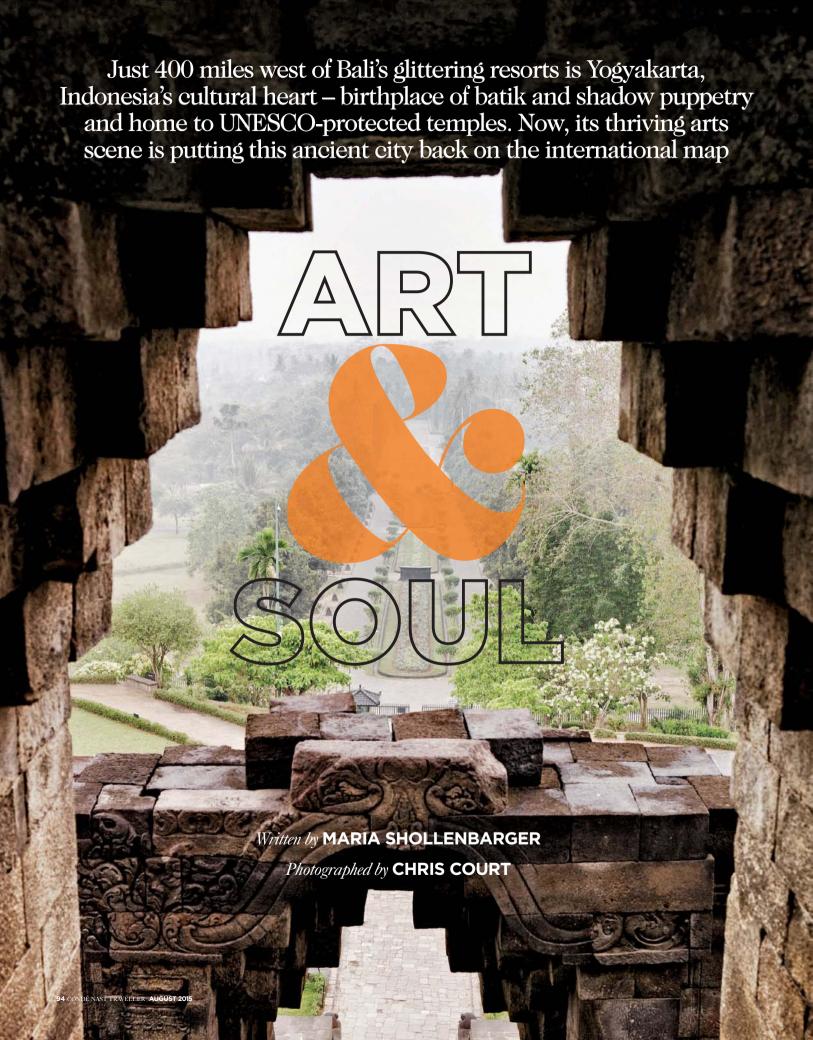
BEST FOR FAMILIES WITH TINY TOTS

Constance Halaveli

Where many other resorts capitalise on the overwater aspect of their villas, at Constance Halaveli there are plenty of options for landlubbers - or people travelling with young children in tow. So deeply do they believe in catering to families here that the Family Beach Villa is its own category (although, depending on how much cash you want to splash, the Presidential Villa also has its roots on solid ground). Kids can run free thanks to the villas' gated garden; a baby stroller, cot and equipment for sterilising bottles come standard. Babysitting services (book ahead) give mum and dad a chance to retreat to U Spa, or take the night off for a cocktail at Jing Bar on the jetty before a dinner of grilled day's catch at Meeru with their bare feet in the sand.

NUMBER OF VILLAS: 86 TRANSFER TIME: 25 minutes by seaplane from Malé Villas from AED 4,775; 00960-666 7000, constancehotels.com





NA MUSEUM IN YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia, sits a bright-yellow 1976 Mitsubishi Galant GTO with a flamboyant tail fin, detailed in emerald green and scarlet. It's not parked outside the building; rather, it has pride of place in the main gallery, complete with a rope surround and a spotlight. But this is not *La Gioconda*, and you're not in the Louvre. This is *Affandi's Ride*, the car in which arguably the most important Indonesian artist of the 20th century roared

around the city until he passed away in 1990; and you're in the Affandi Museum, a jumble of buildings along the Gajah Wong River that Affandi built himself. His paintings – wild landscapes and provocative, almost psychedelic portraits – still fetch hundreds of thousands of dollars, but it's his crazy muscle car that stays with you, so idiosyncratic and unexpected in a museum. A cultural surprise, much like Yogyakarta itself.

Set in the eastern part of Java – Indonesia's fifth largest island and the world's most populous – Yogyakarta is the country's nexus of traditional arts. It's also the 17,000-island archipelago's most-visited destination after Bali, a fact that has much to do with its proximity to the extraordinary temples of Borobudur and the equally impressive temples of Prambanan, both less than an hour's drive away. Wayang kulit, Indonesia's intricate shadow puppetry, was born here more than a thousand years ago. So was batik, a few hundred later; Yogyakartan designs - complex geometrical and graphic patterns, usually painted in rich browns and deep blues on white - are considered among the most beautiful by textile collectors. (Some were exclusive to Javanese royalty; commoners are still forbidden to wear them in certain tombs and palaces.) In Kotagede, Yogyakarta's old town, built more than 400 years ago by the immensely wealthy Mataram Sultanate, the streets are so narrow that they have to be navigated on foot or by tuk-tuk; often you barely have to reach your arms out for your fingertips to graze the walls on either side.

But Yogya, as locals call it, is also the incubator for Indonesia's next generation of artists and gatekeepers of culture. The global enthusiasm for the country since its first democratically elected president, Joko Widodo, took his seat last fall is dovetailing with the perennial hunger among art collectors for the Next Big Thing. This means that if you're interested in the contemporary art of Asia, Indonesia is a very interesting place right now. The reinstitution (after a seven-year absence) of the Indonesia Pavilion at the 2013 Venice Biennale – underwritten by billionaire Indonesian-Chinese businessman Budi Tek,



Yogya, as locals call it, is the incubator for Indonesia's next generation of artists and gatekeepers of culture. If you're interested in the contemporary art of Asia, Indonesia is a very interesting place right now

whose collection includes works by Anselm Kiefer and Anish Kapoor along with others by Agus Suwage, Eko Nugroho and Putu Sutawijaya, some of his own country's biggest artists – was a major statement. The city's Biennale is, at 26 years, Asia's longest-running; but it is Art Fair Jogja, inaugurated in 2011, that has garnered international attention with its commissioned thematic exhibitions. Last year, delegates from Christie's, Sotheby's, Gagosian and Tate Modern were spotted scouting at the Taman Budaya Art Center in search of the next Nyoman Masriadi - a Yogyakarta-based Balinese whose The Man From Bantul (The Final Round) triptych, a political allegory featuring three of his signature monumental black-skinned figures in a boxing ring, sold at auction in Hong Kong a few years ago for more than AED 3.5 million. Masriadi is now represented by Paul Kasmin Gallery in New York, which showcased his

work prominently at Art Basel Miami Beach in December; Nugroho has had recent exhibitions in Berlin (at Arndt), Hong Kong (Lehmann Maupin) and Newport Beach, California (the Orange County Museum of Art). Gagosian cares enough about the market to have installed a representative in Jakarta full-time last year. And Ben Brown, an English dealer with galleries in London's Mayfair and the Pedder Building in Hong Kong, brought a show of major contemporary Indonesian artists to the UK in 2012, less than a year after the exhibition "Indonesian Eye: Fantasies & Realities" at the Saatchi Gallery in Chelsea. "It's definitely a strong market," Brown says, not just in Asia but globally. "I'd attribute it in part to the fact that China now looks overpriced, and to the Indonesian collectors making a big mark on the international scene."

While many of these artists have lived and worked in Yogya (or still do), the place is less.



about watching the market and more about quiet creativity. That has been an essential part of its life for centuries: The city is home to both Indonesia's oldest and most prestigious fine arts academy and the erstwhile Kingdom of Java's richest sultans (meaning the most talented artisans and performers historically based themselves here). As you explore, you'll discover art in enclaves of surprising quiet and beauty amid the hornet's nest of traffic. (With a population of just under 400,000, Yogyakarta is pretty chaotic – and therefore best navigated with a private car and driver.) At Langgeng Art Foundation, founder/director Deddy Irianto hosts exhibits, residencies for visiting artists and commissioned projects in a series of airy white cubes punctuated by a café and an internal garden. A 20-minute ride to the edge of town brings you to the Sarang Building, which features emerging local talent and is worth a visit for its gorgeous galleries and outdoor exhibition pavilion alone. Cemeti Art House, which helped put Yogyakarta on the contemporary map when it launched in the mid-Nineties, operates out of a bungalow near the old city. Its Dutch founder, Mella Jaarsma, says that Yogya outguns Jakarta among serious aficionados, despite the latter's push to dominate the gallery scene. "The money may be in Jakarta," she says, "but the genuine interest is here."

BUT YOU'LL FIND HAPPY COLLISIONS BETWEEN the timeless and the right-now, the conservative and the iconoclastic, in all walks of Yogya life. There's the Dusun Jogja Village Inn, for example, a meandering complex of wabi-sabi bungalows and pavilions. Amron Paul Yuwono, the 40-something owner, spent several years in America (including a stint as personal stylist for President Obama's halfsister) before returning to Yogya to run the family inn, which has evolved into something of a cultural nexus. You might listen to a wayang kulit narrated by nationally renowned poets, with an electronica soundtrack instead of the traditional gamelan orchestra, next to the saltwater pool; or pay a visit to Ardiyanto for hand-painted batiks. In the Seventies and Eighties, Ardivanto Pranata held salons in his massive villa, from which he sold his museumquality textiles to international socialites. Pranata fell ill, and the villa into mild neglect. But navigate the tumble of monumental Javanese salvage in the overgrown courtyard and you'll reach the batik workshops, which still hum with industry, colourful, bright yards of silk and cotton hanging in various stages of painting and colour-washing. You'll want to dine at Kesuma - if you go, be sure to book ahead for one of the six tables in the tiny Javanese wood-house. The chefs, all related, serve elevated interpretations of regional dishes from Yogya and nearby Solo; their

gudeg, the royal Yogyakartan savory jackfruit stew, is a revelation. Or you can opt for Gadjah Wong, a rambling series of indoor-outdoor terraces above the rushing river, where very good versions of Indonesian classics (opor ayam, chicken braised in coconut milk) and Western dishes share the menu.

You'll also find, in the city's environs, the ravishing, rich green natural beauty that characterises much of Indonesia: stands of palms, steeply pitched roofs and fields of undulating mist at dawn. If a morning of traffic-dodging leaves you feeling wilted, drive out to d'Omah Hotel, an understated, characterful village lovingly converted by an Australian-born exporter. The gardens, thick with bougainvillea and palms, burble with fountains. Lunch on the wide veranda is a feast for all senses: whole grilled lake fish, its flanks livid with spices, and a view of verdant rice paddies before you.

And finally, before you leave Java, there's one last stop you need to make that takes you into the countryside, to Amanijwo. This is one of the first places where Yogyakarta's aesthetic past and future merged so beautifully. Architect Ed Tuttle found inspiration for the hotel's 36 suites in the sensual lines of the Borobudur temple complex, just visible across a shallow valley. Amanjiwo has its own contemporary art expert in the form of Oei Hong Djien, the collector whose nearby OHD museum can be closed for private tours for the hotel's guests. But if it's the past you want, Amanjiwo's guides will take you to Borobudur before dawn, whisking you around the already-forming queues and leading you to the complex's very apex for a prime position among its 72 stupas to watch the sunrise between the volcanic peaks of Merapi and Merbabu. It's an ideal spot: seated in the eminence of Indonesia's past, considering its future.

You'll find happy collisions between the timeless and the right-now: You might listen to a wayang kulit narrated by nationally renowned poets, with an electronica soundtrack instead of the traditional gamelan orchestra



NEED TO KNOW:

YOGYAKARTA

WHERE TO STAY

Amanjiwo

Overlooking Borobudur, guests are provided with a box of watercolours in their suite and can join the artist-in-residence morning sketching sessions.

Doubles from AED 4,225; 0062-293-78 8333, amanresorts.com

d'Omah Hotel Yogya

All rooms feature artworks and antiques from the owner's private collection, with walls covered in hand-painted batik.

Doubles from AED 370; 0062-274-36 8050, yogyakartaaccommodation.com

Dusun Jogja Village Inn

It's low-fi but charming and central, with fresh green juices at the poolside bar. Doubles from AED 265; 0062-274-37 3031, jvidusun.co.id

WHERE TO EAT

d'Omah Restaurant

Clean, fresh takes on Javanese specialities, all served on its fan-cooled terrace. Entrées from AED 20; 0062-274-36 8050, yogyakartaaccommodation.com

Gadjah Wong

Enjoy Indonesian cuisine accompanied by live jazz music. Entrées from AED 20; 0062-274-54 2815

Kesuma

Located in a wooden Javanese house, this restaurant serves rice and noodle dishes made using local ingredients.

Entrées from AED 25; 0062-851-0024 5027, kesumarestaurant.com

WHAT TO SEE

Affandi Museum

Make sure to book one of the 10 seats at a live painting workshop led by professional artists. 0062-274-56 2593, affandi.org

Borobudur and Prambanan Temple Complexes

Tickets are on sale starting at 6am, but Borobudur opens at 4.30am; it's best to arrange tickets and a car and driver in advance and arrive in time to watch the sun rise.

Tours from AED 105; 0062-27-449 6406, borobudurpark.com

Cemeti Art House

Check out local and international contemporary art and connect with the



artists at talks, presentations and exhibitions. 0062-274-37 1015, cemetiarthouse.com

Langgeng Art Foundation

The foundation offers a Public Lecture Series on the growing Indonesian contemporary art scene. 0062-247-417043, languagengfoundation.org

Museum Batik Yogyakarta

The space is a bit frozen in the Seventies, but the hand-painted cottons and silks are spectacular.

0062-274-56 2338, museumbatik.com

Sangkring Art Space

A small compound in the Desa Nitripayan area, where many artists have studios. The

Balinese owner/curator showcases talent from across Southeast Asia. 0062-274-38 1032, sangkringartspace.net

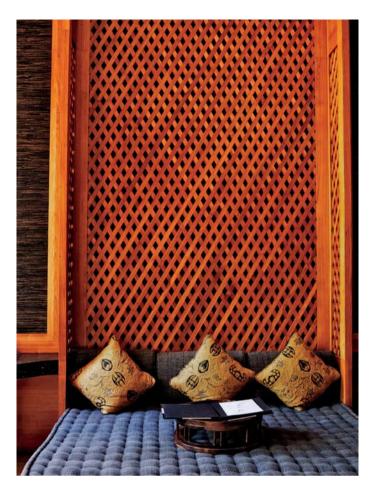
WHERE TO SHOP

Ardiyanto

This arts and batik shop, set up by painter, batik-maker and fashion designer Ardiyanto Pranata, also houses a gallery. 0062-274-56 2777 CNT

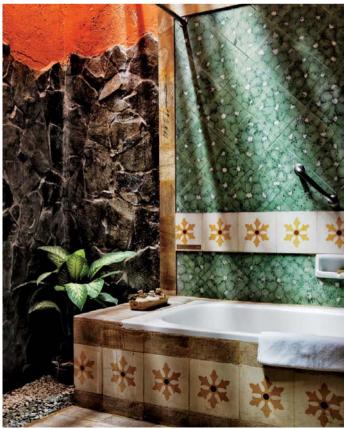
Getting there

Emirates (*emirates.com*) and Qatar Airways (*qatarairways.com*) fly direct to Bali from where it's a two-hour flight to Yogyakarta with Garuda Indonesia (*garuda-indonesia.com*)









Clockwise from top left: A dining sala at the Dusun Jogja Village Inn; inside the mosque of the royal tombs in Kota Gede, Yogyakarta's old town, built more than 400 years ago; a bathroom at the Dusun Jogja Village Inn; an artist applies colour to silk by hand at Ardiyanto, which has produced Yogyakarta's finest batiks for 40 years





Photographed by ROGERIO MARANHAO, TINKO

thanks to its combination of intelligent design and untamed wilderness, discovers PEDRO D'OREY







LMOST AS IF BY MAGIC, AMID THE THRONG OF locals and tourists at Zumbi dos Palmares International Airport, a driver kitted out impeccably in the Kenoa - Exclusive Beach Spa & Resort uniform materialises next to me at the baggage carousel, leading me toward a waiting black limousine. The journey to the hotel that will be my home for the next few days follows a road lined with palm trees, cutting through a dense mangrove forest, until we reach a sandy path that ends at a pavilion. With its wooden gable roof and clean architectural lines, the resort seems to blend seamlessly into the surrounding jungle. I am on Barra de São Miguel, one of the most spectacular beaches in the Brazilian state of Alagoas, a region that is still underdeveloped but where it's summer year-round. Even in Brazil, there are beaches and then there are beaches. This idyllic spot is located not far from Francês Beach, which attracts in-the-know beach-goers from around the world.

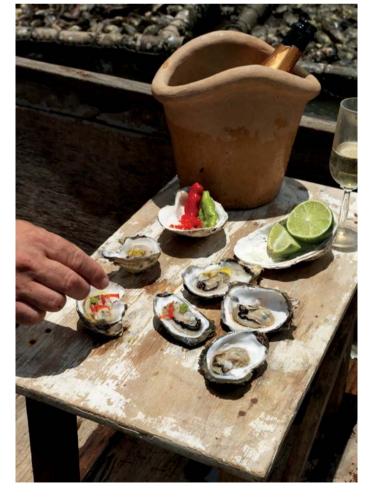
While beautiful people in search of parties descend on Trancoso in droves, and Bahía is a favourite for top models, Barra de São Miguel and the exclusive eco-resort Kenoa attract the trendy set from São Paulo as well as groups of designers, models, actors, young aristocrats and jet-setters in search of sun and tranquillity.

There's a relaxed, bohemian vibe combined with minimalist glamour. This is a place without urgency. "It's the perfect place to do nothing," says Pedro Marques, the resort's owner. "It's what our guests tell us they need."

And, of course, in a place like this, there's no room for mundane activities like checking in. My butler takes me straight to an oceanfacing villa, decorated in distinctive Brazilian style with Asian touches. The embroidered bedspreads are made by women from a neighbouring town, the ceramic pieces and wood carvings come from Mina Gerais, the masks are from Bali, the rugs from the Amazon, the bathtubs are ofuro - short, steepsided wooden tubs from Japan - and the basin is made from rock that was found on the beach. The resort is a labyrinth of treasures, a dream-like ecosystem in which behind every object and detail is a story waiting to be told. During construction, nothing was wasted and much of what was left over has been given a second life. There are no plastic bottles, nor has the hotel been painted, to reduce the strain on natural resources. Even the staff uniforms have been designed so they don't require ironing.

The pale light of dawn creeps into my room as colourful parrots call out from the tops.







of palm trees. The only other sounds are the swish of the gardener's broom and the soft crash of the waves, in sacred symphony, just metres away. A few minutes later, I'm walking out on the scorching sand, attempting to reach the relative coolness of the water, covering my eyes to protect them from the strong sun. If you want to learn to surf or paddleboard, this is the place. Private lessons can be arranged.

Fronted by hundreds of kilometres of golden beaches, this region is also home to mangroves, coconut plantations and infinite blue skies. As if frozen like a fossil in a piece of amber, this exceptional heritage area is a magnet for investors, conservationists and those looking for no-holds-barred beauty. It was just such a group who decided to combine their various talents to launch Kenoa. Although their aesthetic sensibilities differ widely, they share a respect for history and nature, and a passion for intelligent design. The clearest example of this is Pedro Marques, who previously worked as an engineer for Deloitte. "I wanted to create a hotel from the point of view of the guests," he explained. "To incorporate nature into the design, and demonstrate that a property can be eco-friendly while maintaining the highest level of service."

The architect Osvaldo Tenório dreamt up the intricate interiors full of rustic charm, mixing antiques with contemporary photographs, teak floors and mahogany dressers. The treated wood contrasts with the bare cement walls, playing on different textures, while the exterior melds with its surroundings.

There is hardly any signage in Kenoa, nor are there many rules. In this type of paradise, it's unnecessary to instruct guests on how to relax or be happy. They already know how, instinctively. Plus, the way to nirvana is clear: "The spa is a sanctuary of wellness, where senses are pampered and from which guests emerge younger," Marques assures me.

Kenoa's chef, César Santos, who is from the neighbouring state of Pernambuco, put the region on the gastronomical map. He uses classical techniques with Brazilian ingredients, combining them boldly while introducing Asian flavours. His goal in setting up the restaurant Kaamo was to commit to sustainability, working with local farmers and fishermen, discovering new ingredients as well as reviving those that have been forgotten.

DEVELOPED MAINLY DUE TO THE SUGAR CANE

industry, Maceió is the capital of the state. Here life revolves around the beach, particularly in the Ponta Verde district and on Pajuçara Beach. At the latter, you'll find a walkway packed with restaurants that remain open well into the night alongside most of

the city's chic hotels. There's a famous night craft market, Cheiro da Terra, which translates literally as "the essence of the earth". Easy to get around on foot, the relaxed centre of Maceió has no significant historical attractions, although it does have beautiful colonial buildings like the Bom Jesus dos Martírios Church, covered in white and blue tiles. The main draw, however, is the sea. To go diving in the shallow reefs, called *parrachos*, you should head to Pajuçara Beach and book a trip on board one of the colourful *jangadas* (traditional fishing boats).

I opt, instead, to head for the Roteiro State Ecological Reserve, one of the most expansive and best preserved mangrove forests in the country. From the village of Vila Palateia we paddle in canoes through flooded channels to the island of Meio, or "the middle island", known for its oyster beds and the second largest oyster farm in Brazil. The visit ends with an in situ tasting.

As the time to leave and return to the wintry northern hemisphere approaches, I recall a quote from Gandhi that seems a fitting summary of life in these parts: "Happiness is when what you think, what you say and what you do are in harmony." I suspect that the surfers, the staff at Kenoa and all those living in northeast Brazil would agree with the sentiment.





Mauro Nascimento, a chef at Kenoa. **Above**: Fresh, tropical fruit is in abundance in Barra de São Miguel

The embroidered
bedspreads are made by
women from a neighbouring
town, the ceramic pieces and
wood carvings come from
Mina Gerais, the masks
are from Bali, the rugs

from the Amazon





Barra de São Miguel is one of the most spectacular beaches in Alogoas, where it is summer year-round. Even in Brazil, there are beaches and then there are beaches

The idyllic Barra de São Miguel beach is a secluded haven away from the crowds



Need to know: ALAGOAS

WHERE TO STAY

Barra de São Miguel became so popular among the trendy set from around the world in large part thanks to the opening of the Kenoa - Exclusive Beach Spa & Resort (doubles from AED 1,565; 0055-823-272 1285, kenoaresort.com). The resort has 23 suites and villas, a serene spa with Shiseido treatments and a restaurant run by chef César Santos. Outside of this, you can find several other simple yet enticing places to stay at like Vivá Barra Hotel Pousada (doubles from AED 955; 0055-82-3272 2047, vicabarrahotelpousada.com. br) in Barra de São Miguel, or Pousada Taba Brasil (doubles from AED 165; 0082-3260 1335, pousadatababrasil.com.br) near Francês Beach.

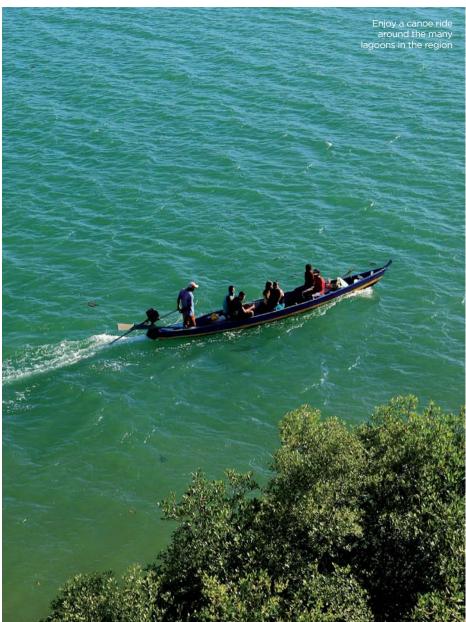
WHEN TO GO

With 365 days of sun each year and an average temperature of 26°C, it's always the right time to visit the beaches of Alagoas. There are occasional showers from May to September, which people are usually grateful for.

GETTING THERE

Emirates (*emirates.com*), Etihad Airways (*etihad.com*) and Qatar Airways (*qatarairways.com*) fly direct to São Paulo from where it's a three-hour flight with TAM Airlines (*tam.com.br*) to Maceió, the state capital of Alagoas. If you're staying at Kenoa, the hotel will organise an airport transfer CNT









Rafural remedies

The Nordic folk-food movement has made giant steps in Sweden and Denmark. Now, Iceland is ready for its moment in the midnight sun



Written by HARRY PEARSON Photographed by ØIVIND HAUG

Greek yoghurt, muesli and rhubarb jam at Bergsson Mathús





ACK AT THE START OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM, ICELAND was booming. Its bankers bought English football teams. Glossy SUVs clogged the narrow streets of Reykjavik's old town. The hedonistic lifestyle portrayed in Hallgrímur Helgason's novel 101 Reykjavik became more prevalent as bars and clubs in the capital stayed open 24 hours a day, turning the volcanic island into a North Atlantic Ibiza.

Then, in 2008, the bottom fell out as its financial institutions went bust, its currency crumbled and inflation, interest rates and unemployment rocketed. According to news reports, Iceland was on the verge of imploding, its 300,000 citizens robbed of public services, stripped of pensions and forced to work 18 hours a day, seven days a week for the next five generations, just to dig their nation out of the hole. All of which makes its steady recovery since 2011, and the cheeriness of the locals, a little surprising.

"Maybe the whole crash wasn't a bad thing," says the man sitting next to me at the bar in Boston, a fashionable lounge – kitsch gold *chinoiserie* wallpaper, mirrored columns, stuffed crow behind the bar – in Laugavegur, Reykjavik's main street. "I was just making money. I never thought about anything else. Then everything went bad and I found out something super: that my wife of 15 years is actually a really cool person. She makes great jokes." He raises his hops glass in a salute.

In the wake of the collapse, Icelanders reverted to a simpler way of life, to home and hearth. Unable to import all but the essentials, they have rediscovered their roots. Out went the Milan-clad metrosexual, in came the Scandi hand-knit hipster. Bearded chap, rosy-cheeked woman. She has plaits, he has a bun. They have a baby; all have chunky jumpers.

The look is exemplified by local fashion brand Farmers Market, whose catalogue features male models so craggy and hairy they make the average Woolrich photo shoot look like a One Direction concert. The lopi sweater, made from the wool of Icelandic sheep, has become trendy again.

The new mood has also affected the culinary scene, which has become less formal, more folksy. The emphasis is on fresh fish and local lamb, pastured all year on a diet of moss, thrift and sedge, resulting in a delicate, gamey flavour that's closer to wild species such as chamois and mouflon than to most domesticated breeds.

Just over a year old, Nora Magasin is Reykjavik's answer to the gastropub. Its look is Icelandic junk-shop chic, a Norse offshoot of the interior styling popular in the SoFo area of Stockholm, all Fifties bouclé sofas and Woolworths-style art. There are old-school chairs, embroidered cushions, a Bakelite radio and a waitress in a Forties tea dress, and the water glasses are jam jars like those used by the Ralph Lauren-clad hillbillies in hit American TV series *Justified*. Melamine plates are stacked on a shelf above the Naugahyde banquettes. The hops is from local craft breweries such as Einstök and the food is good and plentiful. Local Norway lobster (a variety of langoustine) is battered, deep-fried and dusted with sumac; freshly caught tusk (a bit)







like cod) is oven-baked and served on a bed of paprika potatoes. The pudding, chocolate lava cake, is big, rich and gooey enough to send anyone to bed wondering if they really ought to have eaten it all.

Nora Magasin has a sign on the door proclaiming the place whale-friendly. Minke whale, once part of a subsistence diet in Iceland, is still eaten on the island. "When I was a girl in the Seventies, we had it once a week with brown sauce," a local tells me, wrinkling her nose. "We never saw things like chicken – too expensive. We had lamb on Sundays, leftovers Mondays, fish the rest of the time."

Read a list of traditional Icelandic food and it's clear these were people prepared to squeeze nutrients out of just about anything, from birch tea, moss syrup and crowberry jam (made from an evergreen plant commonly seen in British rockeries) to seabird eggs, horse meat sausage and the infamous hákarl (rotten Greenland shark, which makes Norway's notoriously stinky *lutefisk* seem moreish by comparison). Unlike in the other Nordic countries, nature is not bountiful in Iceland. The island is practically treeless, so there are no woods filled with berries and mushrooms, nor is there a plentiful supply of game. There are no red deer or elk, nor any of the bears that end up canned in Finland, and the licence to shoot reindeer is handled by a lottery system so random and complex as to put off all but the most committed carnivore. As far as poultry goes, there are ducks, three varieties of geese and the ptarmigan (a kind of rangy grouse that's popular at Christmas). It's hardly an abundance. But then - as celebrated British cookbook writer Elizabeth David pointed out thriftiness is the mother of gastronomy.

"What about puffins?" I ask the one-time whale-eater.

"I have not had them often," she says. "It was not really a thing in Reykjavik. But in other towns in Iceland, yes. The young puffins, you see, they are attracted by the lights, so they will just fly into the villages." She shrugs. What can you do? In a place like Iceland, when food drops into your lap like that, you can't afford to shoo it away just because it looks cute and had a junior book club named after it.

At Fish Market, a smart restaurant of Asiatic inflection run by Hrefna Rósa Saetran – one of Iceland's best chefs – minke whale and smoked puffin breast are among the starters. Having eaten minke in Norway, though, my view on it is much the same as that of Crocodile Dundee on the subject of grubs and sugar ants: "You can live on it, but it tastes like s***."

I feel I ought to try smoked puffin, though. Unfortunately, having resolved to order it, I hear the voice of my mother during a family trip to the Farne Islands in 1972 saying, "Oh, look, aren't they just such dear little things," and change my mind. To prove I am no queasy gastro-liberal, I plump for ocean perch with foie gras on a homemade prawn cracker. Having seen greylag geese on the town pond earlier while searching for the Alvar Aalto-designed Nordic House, I ask the waitress if the foie gras is from Iceland. She curls her lip. "No. It would not be legal to treat a goose like that here," she says. I feel a sense of national disapproval. Maybe I should have gone for the whale.

Impressively whimsical, Hallgrímskirkja church stands on a hill a mile from Fish Market. Like all those in the Nordic countries, the Icelanders have a taste for the quirky: there are hand-knitted snoods

on some of the lampposts, pilchard tins filled with geraniums on the fences, Björk on the supermarket sound system, and in the city centre I stumble across the HQ of the Icelandic Esperanto Association. Hallgrímskirkja is from that tradition – part Lutheran church, part spaceship. From the rocket-like spire, you can look straight down streets of corrugated iron-clad houses in shades of blue, green, red and cream, to the great bay beyond. On the far side of this expanse of water, towering cliffs are capped with snow for most of the year. In the dimming light of a late September day, the fishing boats are coming in, lights winking.

Reykjavik is a northern fishing port with the accoutrements of a national capital but few trappings of grandeur. There's a refreshing modesty to the place, which was here long before Iceland's recent economic travails. In Austurvöllur Square, the heart of the city, the cathedral is not much bigger than a parish church, the national parliament building the size of a Victorian public library.

Close by is Bergsson Mathús, where hand-knit hipsters brunch on soft-boiled eggs and bacon. There's homemade rhubarb jam, wholegrain bread and copies of *Monocle* for those without a baby in tow. Bergsson's logo features a sheep and a beetroot, and the restaurant is committed to simple, local produce.

It may have recently been eclipsed in economic importance by banking and financial services, but fishing remains the big thing in Iceland, embedded in the national psyche in a way hedge funds will never be. (There's an advert for Icelandic Arctic char on the walls of Keflavík International Airport, and the glass exterior of the Harpa Concert Hall – designed by Olafur Eliasson and opened in 2011 –

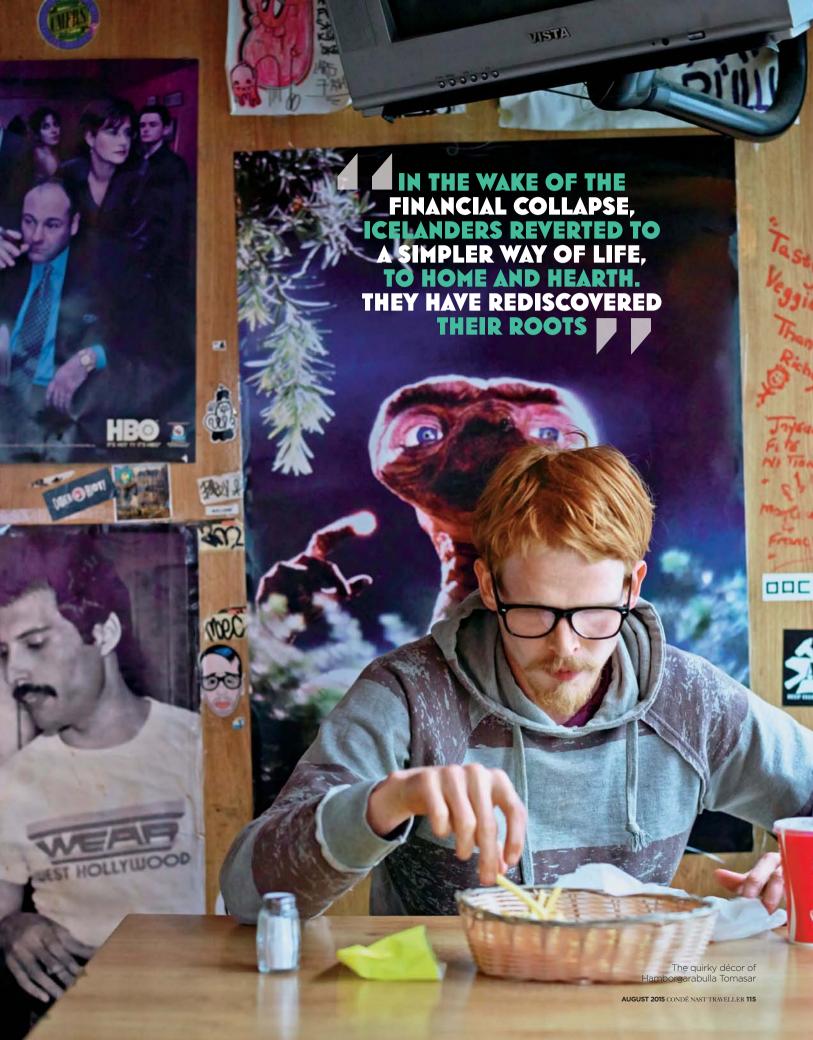
resembles salmon scales.) The fish served here is fresh and fantastic in variety: local species of scallop, spider crab and langoustines; excellent cod, haddock and monkfish; and lesser-known species including redfish, capelin, wolffish and Greenland halibut.

In the restaurant of the ION Luxury Adventure Hotel, I sample Arctic char from the nearby Thingvellir Lake. An hour from Reykjavik, ION looks like the lair of a stylish super villain. A concrete rectangle extends from a volcanic hillside on pillars, a glass box at the end. Around it, steam rises from blowholes amid weird lava formations covered in red lichen. More smoke wafts from a narrow stream carrying water the temperature of a hot bath through fields of dune grass and bottle-green moss. As the sun briefly appears, a rainbow shoots vertically into the sky from the far shore of the lake, like some divine symbol from *Le Morte d'Arthur*: Little wonder the Vikings made up tales of dragons and trolls.

With sustainability at its heart, ION follows the trend for using local materials including polished stone, reclaimed wood, recycled rubber and horsehair rugs. Its architects and interior designers are Icelanders based in California. Hot water comes from underground springs.

In the hotel's Silfra Restaurant, the focus is on island produce. The Arctic char is marinated and served with mustard sauce and pickled cucumber, as *gravadlax* would be in Sweden. Lamb fillet from a nearby farm comes with red-grape gravy and pork cheek, cod with pearl barley, pickled red onion and cauliflower. To finish, there's crème brûlée made with *skyr*, an Icelandic yoghurt. The dishes are first-rate, executed with an untheatrical precision that showcases the raw materials. Sophisticated yet, at the same time, down-to-earth. A bit like Reykjavik itself.





NEED TO KNOW:

REYKJAVIK

WHERE TO EAT

DILL

Gunnar Karl Gíslason, chef at Dill, credits Iceland's foodie revolution to the economic crash in 2008. "Overnight, everything became too expensive to import and we had to make the most of what was available at home," he says. Named after Gislason's favourite ingredient, the restaurant changes its menu weekly, depending on what has been foraged. Dishes include bacalao tartar, dill mayonnaise and dulse powder, and sheep-dung-smoked lamb.

Three-course menu from AED 220; 00354-552 1522, dillrestaurant.is

FISH MARKET

Close to the national parliament building, the sleek, immaculately run Fish Market showcases top-class Icelandic ingredients. Some are given an Asiatic twist (the sushi makes excellent use of freshly caught fish; duck is roasted in Szechuan spices), while smoked puffin breast is paired with polenta, salt cod with a salad of celery cashew nuts and dried cranberries. Chef Hrefna Rósa Sætran also owns the meat-focused Grill Market. Interiors are inspired by local scenery, with live moss, basalt columns and fish skins on the walls.

From AED 70; 00354-578 8877, fiskmarkadurinn.is

NORA MAGASIN

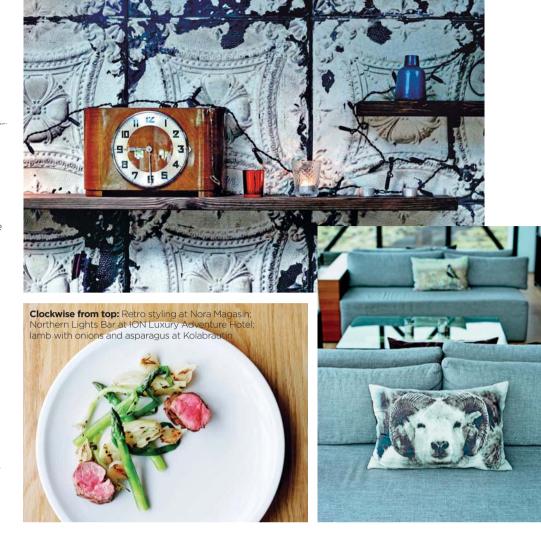
Nora Magasin is a gastropub venture from Icelandic celebrity chef Völundur Völundarson, who also runs the prestigious Borg Restaurant next door. Head chef Akane Monavon is half-French, half-Japanese and the menu reflects this with juicy tempura lobster dusted with sumac, grilled Camembert with berries and baguette, and oven-baked cod with tomatoes and sautéed potatoes. Finish with cardamom crème brûlée. Good cocktails and local microbrewery hops, too.

From AED 30; 00354-578 2010

BERGSSON MATHUS

A basement café/restaurant near the town pond, Bergsson Mathus is open from 7am to 7pm, serving what might be best described as all-day brunch. Expect slow, tasty, honest food with excellent wholegrain bread and homemade rhubarb jam, bacon and soft-boiled eggs, though the pairing of serrano ham with pineapple may alarm those who grew up in the era of gammon "Hawaiian-style".

From AED 35; 00354-571 1822, bergsson.is



CAFÉ LOKI

Right opposite the impressively weird Hallgrimskirkja, Café Loki looks a bit like a tourist trap, but don't be put off. The couple who own it make Icelandic flatbreads and rye loaves, accompanied with delicious smoked trout. And the rye bread ice cream suggests that the Eighties staple might be due a comeback.

From AED 10; 00354-466 2828, loki.is

FORRÉTTABARINN

Forréttabarinn had a reputation for serving starters and desserts only, in a large, airy, post-industrial-style building overlooking Reykjavik's harbour, until it added a set four-course menu. The restaurant's tapas approach works especially well when it comes to sampling less orthodox Icelandic-inflected dishes such as cured lamb hearts, horse steak with potatoes or salt-cod pizza. From AED 40; 00354-517 1800, forrettabarinn.is

HAMBORGARABÚLLA TÓMASAR

One of London's favourite hamburger restaurants, Tommi's Burger Joint, began life in Reykjavik in a wedge-shaped, metal-fronted kiosk down by the harbour. The snug interior of Hamborgarabúlla

Tómasar is papered with Fifties Americana and the burgers and fries are wonderful. Vegetarians can replace the meat patty with a Portobello mushroom. From AED 20: 00354-511 1888, bullan.is

REYKJAVIK ROASTERS

Up near the Hallgrimskirkja, easy-going coffee house Reykjavik Roasters – formerly Kaffismidja Islands – has built a reputation for serving the best coffee in the capital. The company roasts its own beans in a mighty-looking machine that occupies pride of place in the L-shaped room.

From AED 10; 00354-517 5535, reykjavikroasters.is

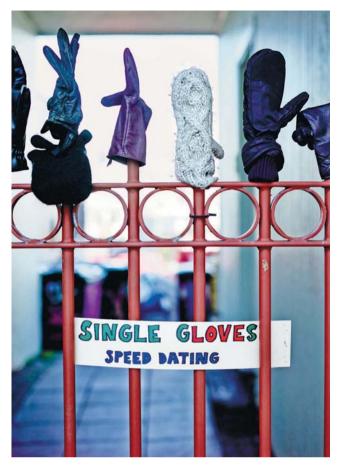
CAFÉ HAITI

Café Haiti, so named because its owner is married to a Haitian *émigré*, is a relaxed venue next to the harbour. It serves fairtrade Caribbean coffee that's roasted on the premises, as well as good croissants and Danish pastries.

From AED 20; 00354-588 8484, cafehaiti.is

STOFAN KAFFIHÚS

Stofan Kaffihus has an interior that encapsulates Iceland's retro-boho look: all junk shop furniture and kitsch paintings.





From far left: A fence in Laugavegur; carrot cake at Stofan Kaffihús

The coffee is of a high standard, as are the cakes. It also offers hops on tap, should your afternoon cappuccino drag on into the evening.

From AED 20; 00354-540 1842

THE INGREDIENTS

Bacalao Spanish for salted cod, traditionally left to dry out in the sun

Crowberries Tart member of the juniper family, and one of the few berries to grow here

Dulse Deep red seaweed, typically dried, eaten as a snack or used to flavour soups and breads

Fermented shark An acquired taste – even many Icelanders avoid it – this rotten meat (known locally as *hákarl*) is usually saved for the midwinter festival Thorrablot

Puffin Tastes like a richer, slightly fishier chicken

Skyr Technically a cheese, but more like a rich, thick (and surprisingly low-fat) Greek yoghurt

WHERE TO SHOP

FARMERS MARKET

Fashion brand Farmers Market has traditional clothing with a modern slant, including jumpers and cardigans made of merino wool – softer and lighter than the local variety. Nice hats, too. Farmers & Friends (*farmersandfriends.is*) is the online store.

00354-552 1960; farmersmarket.is

GEYSIR

Geysir has everything for the authentic, outdoorsy urban hipster, including knee-high socks made from Icelandic wool as thick as loft insulation, cardigans as heavy as a naval duffle coat, and balaclavas with beards and moustaches. An interior of salvaged wood and old photos adds to the shop's rustic feel. 00354-519 6000; geysir.com

KOLAPORTID FLEA MARKET

Open Saturdays and Sundays from 11am to 5pm, Kolaportid flea market is based in a customs hall right by the harbour-side, close to the Reykjavik Art Museum. Buy Icelandic knitwear direct from the women who make it, or try traditional culinary delicacies such as fermented shark.

00354-562 5030; kolaportid.is

WHERE TO STAY

ION LUXURY ADVENTURE HOTEL

An hour's drive from central Reykjavik, ION has a spectacular setting close to

Thingvellir Lake. This stylish, eco-friendly hotel epitomises the best of Iceland, from the materials used to create its ultra-modern interiors to the music on the sound system in the bar. The latter has a glass roof and is the ideal place to sample hops from a local craft brewery while watching the Northern Lights. The restaurant is excellent, too.

Doubles from AED 1,300; 00354-482 3415, ioniceland.is

GRETTISBORG APARTMENTS

Owned by Roshildur Jonsdottir and Snaebjörn Thor Stefansson, local product designers who also provided the smart, functional interiors, the eight serviced flats at Grettisborg Apartments are comfortable, quiet, well-equipped and just 100m from Reykjavik's main street, Laugavegur. Doubles from AED 620; 00354-666 0655; grettisborg.is

Getting there

Emirates (emirates.com), Qatar Airways (qatarairways.com) and Etihad (etihad.com) fly direct from the GCC to London from where Icelandair (icelandair.com) flies direct to Reykjavik

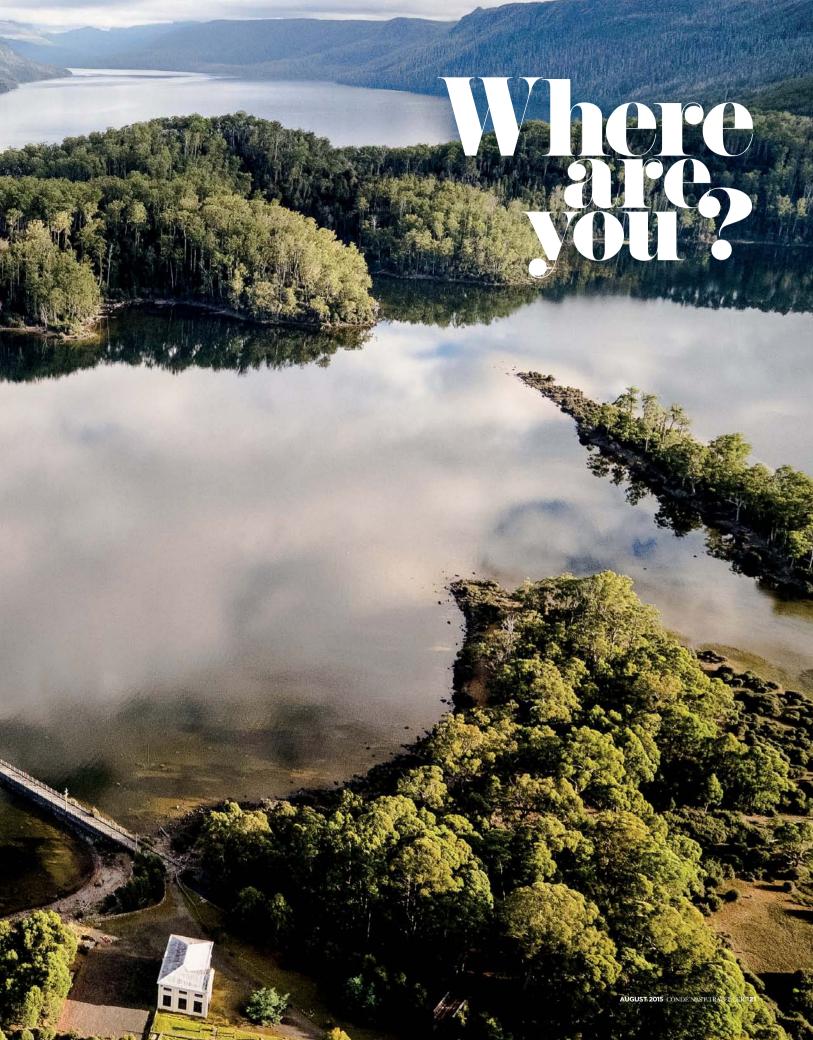




1 Clutch, AED 6,920, Philipp Plein 2 Hat, AED 260, BCBG Max Azria 3 Dress, AED 5,453, Suno at theoutnet.com 4 Pendant with 90cm necklace, AED 595, Pandora 5 Sandals, AED 320, Aldo 6 Bikini, AED 1,270, Athena Procopiou at Saks Fifth Avenue 7 Elemis Total Glow Self Tanning Cream, AED 138

1 Sunnylife beach radio, AED 200 at Hamac 2 Swim shorts, AED 677, Vilebrequin at stylebop.com 3 Sunglasses, AED 980, Persol 4 Polo shirt, AED 275, Kingsley Heath 5 Bag, AED 195, Replay 6 Aquatimer Automatic 2000, price on request, IWC Schaffhausen 7 Shoes, AED 1,730, Tod's





WIN A THREE-NIGHT STAY FOR TWO AT SOFITEL DUBAI JUMEIRAH BEACH

Jith a prime location in Dubai's
Jumeirah Beach Residence,
opening directly on to The Walk
and close to the low-rise dining and shopping
complex The Beach, this 32-storey hotel is
ideal for both business and leisure travellers.

Each of the 438 rooms and suites features a balcony with sweeping views of the Arabian Gulf, traditional Arabic design with a French twist, and Sofitel's MyBed concept – all-feather beds and extra-light down duyets.

The hotel's four restaurants and bars range from refined A.O.C French Brasserie to Infini Pool Lounge with its picturesque views and light fare. Kick back with a glass of hops at The Hub or dine at Plantation, either indoors or al fresco, with its new cassoulet-inspired menu.

Occupying the entire first floor, the hotel also houses a business centre with five meeting and function rooms; CARITA, a ladies beauty salon; and a gym with a sauna and steam room at the So FIT health club.

The hotel is ideally located to hop on one of Big Bus Tour's open-top double-deckers for a fun tour of up to 74 of Dubai's landmarks including the Burj Al Arab, the spice souk and the Dubai Museum.

To win a three-night stay for two at Sofitel Dubai Jumeirah Beach, including daily breakfast, a dinner for two at Plantation, Friday brunch for two, access to the executive club lounge Club Millésime and two tickets for a Big Bus Tour of Dubai, correctly identify the location of this issue's **Where are you?** competition before August 31, 2015.

Reservations are subject to availability. The prize is valid through August 31, 2016, is non-transferrable, cannot be redeemed for cash and does not include public holidays. Transfers, minibar and all other expenses not stated in this prize are subject to payment either on consumption or departure. For more information call 00971-4-448 4848 or visit sofitel-dubai-jumeirahbeach.com





From top: The Imperial Suite offers panoramic views over JBR beach and the Arabian Gulf; Plantation restaurant has a relaxed atmosphere and elegant, nature-inspired décor

Where are you? competition is

Mark Blanksby of Dubai who
correctly identified the location
as Chefchaouen, Morocco. He
won a three-night stay for two at
Banyan Tree Samui, Thailand



COMPETITION RULES 1. Entries for Condé Nast Traveller's Where are you? competition should be sent via email to: contest@appgulf.com 2. Winners will be judged at the discretion of Condé Nast Traveller. The decision of the judges will be final and binding. No correspondence will be entertained. Only one correct answer will be registered per entrant per issue. 3. Each entry must arrive no later than August 31, 2015. Winners will be contacted by email or telephone whenever possible. 4. The entries must be in English and complete in all respects. 5. Condé Nast Traveller is not responsible for late entries. Hlegible or mechanically produced entries are not eligible. Entries by text message are not eligible. 6. Prizes will not be transferred or exchanged for cash or any other item. No refunds or credits for changes or cancellations are allowed. All other expenses and costs, which are not specified as being included in the prize, are the sole responsibility of the winner. 7. All prizes must be redeemed prior to the expiry date. 8. Taxes, if any, are the sole responsibility of the winner. 9. The Where are you'? competition is open to readers of Condé Nast Traveller aged 18 and over on the date of entry and who are ordinarily residents of the GCC. 10. Employees of Condé Nast Traveller, and the families of any of those above are not eligible to contest. 11. All entries to the Where are you? competition become the sole property of Condé Nast Traveller and will not be acknowledged nor returned. 12. Entries become the property of Condé Nast Traveller and will not be acknowledged nor returned. 12. Entries become the property of Condé Nast Traveller and will not be acknowledged nor returned. 12. Entries become the property of Condé Nast Traveller and will not be acknowledged nor returned. 12. Entries become the property of Condé Nast Traveller and may be used for such purpose and in such media as the company deems fit, without requiring the participant's prior permission. 13. Acceptance of the prize constitutes consent for the



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Coastal conduct

Ensure your beach time is stress-free by respecting these unwritten rules, says **Jenny King**



to pitch your umbrella. Then head into the water for a swim – there's nothing like a quick plunge to get your day back on track."

e all know the universal beach codes – respect the lifeguard, look out for warning flags, don't bring glass items to the beach – that are designed to keep us safe along the shore, but being sensitive to those around you ensures everyone can have fun in the sun.

SPACIAL AWARENESS

Unless you're at a particularly crowded beach, pick a spot to lay your towel at a reasonable distance from other beach-goers who may be engrossed in the latest best-seller or enjoying a doze in the sun. And if you're in the mood for fun and games, it's imperative to seek out suitable spaces. "Feel free to play beach volleyball, Frisbee or football – just make

sure to do it far away from other beachgoers," recommends Matt Lotter, sports and leisure manager at Dubai's Madinat Jumeirah. "We have a dedicated section on our beach beside the water sports area where the volleyball nets are located, and there's enough space for kicking a ball around without disrupting other guests."

If someone set ups in front of you, spoiling your view or blocking the sun with their parasol, keep calm and remember that the beach is not your property. "If someone is getting a little too close for comfort, you have three choices: ignore it, speak up or change spot," advises "Mister Manners" Thomas P Farley, a lifestyle expert (whatmannersmost. com). "If you're finding it hard to let go, pick up your belongings and find another place

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

When staying at a beach resort it's natural to want a good spot on the sand. Yet sunbedsaving is not only frowned upon but prohibited at many properties. "We don't allow guests to pre-book or reserve sunbeds and cabanas," says Naman Schwarz, pools and beach operations manager at St Regis Saadiyat Island Resort, Abu Dhabi. "Even though operating hours start at 8am, during busy periods we had guests coming down at 6.30am to place towels and belongings on sunbeds, not returning till hours later." To prevent this happening, the hotel

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began closing the entrance until the beach and pools were officially open. The competition might be fairer, but the race continues. Adds Schwarz, "We find a queue of about 40 guests racing to get the best sunbeds and cabanas the moment we open."

DRESS THE PART

If you're travelling abroad, make sure to familiarise yourself with the local customs and dress codes. While an itsy-bitsy bikini may be fine on the beach in Europe, in many parts of the Middle East and Asia, where there's a melting pot of cultures, it's advisable to be a bit more reserved in your attire, especially when you leave the beach or are dining beachside. "Dubai is a modern city that welcomes millions of visitors every year, but it is also conservative and there are factors that need to be considered when it comes to beachwear," says Lotter. "Bikinis should only be worn on the beach or at the pool and removing garments entirely is illegal. It's important to remember that many beaches are family-oriented."

WATCH YOUR TONGUE

Voices tend to carry in the wind so avoid salty language, especially around children. "I used to go to the beach in Florida when I was younger, and one afternoon there was a family having a picnic when a seagull swooped down and grabbed a sandwich right out of a child's

'We had one guest who was really feeling the music. He started dancing extravagantly and accidentally bumped into one of our waitresses, sending her flying into the pool'

hand," recalls etiquette expert and author Debby Mayne (*debbymayne.com*). "The dad stood up, started throwing things at the bird and yelled all kinds of obscenities. But the bird still got the sandwich, so there was really no need for those nearby to be subjected to the man's temper tantrum."

HEY, DJ

According to a recent TripAdvisor survey, blasting loud music is the biggest beach bugbear. While you may love your latest playlist, remember that not everyone feels the same way and it could make it difficult for the lifeguard to hear a call for help. "Don't forget your earphones when listening to music," says Lotter. "Guests may come from a wide variety of countries with varying music tastes and

preferences – a loud blend of the latest Euro dance track, hip hop, R&B and Arabic tunes would not mix well."

And if you're at a beach club, try not to get too carried away in the moment. "We had one guest who was really feeling the music. A song he must have liked came on because he started dancing extravagantly," says Fabien Cerato, general manager at Nikki Beach St. Tropez. "In the midst of it, he accidentally bumped into one of our waitresses, sending her flying into the pool along with the sushi platter she was bringing to their table."

SHAKE IT OFF (CAREFULLY)

Leaving the beach is as important as setting up. When you're ready to go, check which way the wind is blowing before shaking out your towel or clothes to ensure you're not spraying sand all over fellow sunbathers. "As any regular beach-goer knows, sand gets into everything – you'll be finding grains in your shoes, car and even your sheets for days afterward," says Farley. "So it's vital that we remain aware of how our movements near others could potentially add even more unwanted sand into the mix. Even when walking or jogging past another party's blanket, slow down so as not to kick up sand in your wake." Take your shoes off (if it's not too hot) and stick to the hard-packed sand by the water's edge for jogging. CNT

DO NOT DISTURB

Escape the summer crowds at these under-the-radar beach gems



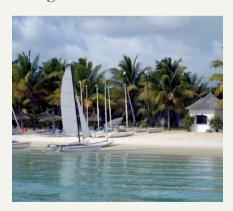
EL NIDO, PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

El Nido boasts talcum-white sand beaches set around dramatic limestone formations, including blindingly blue secret lagoons that can only be entered by swimming through holes in the cliffs.



KSAMIL BEACH, ALBANIA

The Albanian Riveria is home to unspoiled, Caribbean-style beaches and picturesque villages. Ksamil Beach, close to the Greek island of Corfu, has calm, crystal-clear waters, golden shores and is a quick hop to a number of islets with isolated coves.



TROU-AUX-BICHES, MAURITIUS

Set in the north-west part of the island and framed by casuarina trees, this powder-soft, horseshoe-shaped beach has shaded tropical picnic spots and impressive snorkelling just off-shore in the shallow waters.



PHOTO: ERICA WILKINS

Stockists

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Chanel at Harvey Nichols: Dubai, 00971-4-409 8888; Kuwait City, 00965-2-228 3008; Riyadh, 00966-11-273, 4444

Christian Louboutin Abu Dhabi, 00971-2-412 4030; Dubai, 00971-4-399 0998; Doha, 00974-4-450 7004; Manama, 00973-1-717 8076; Kuwait City, 00965-2-297 9011; Jeddah, 00966-12-261 0304; Riyadh, 00966-11-211 2819

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Smashbox at Sephora: Abu Dhabi, 00971-2-445 3690; Dubai, 00971-4-339 9828; Doha, 00974-4-450 7345; Manama, 00973-1-717 9521; Kuwait City, 00965-2-259 7769; Jeddah, 00966-12-215 0496; Riyadh, 00966-11-207 8075

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Chanel Fine Jewellery Abu Dhabi, 00971-2-681 1030; Dubai, 00971-4-382 7100; Kuwait City, 00965-2-299 77006; Jeddah, 00966-12-667 8436; Riyadh, 00966-11-211 2710

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MORNING

TRADE

WHERE

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The Morning Trade

market in Durban

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Mikimoto at Damas: Abu Dhabi, 00971-2-681 3770; Dubai, 00971-4-347 9663; Muscat, 00968-26-81 0524; Doha, 00974-4-467 8828; Manama, 00973-1-755 6013; Kuwait City, 00965-2-530 9584; Jeddah, 00966-12-612 2677; Riyadh, 00966-11-403 4658

Omega Dubai, 00971-4-339 8307; Muscat, 00968-24-55 8502; Doha, 00974-4-487 3190; Manama, 00973-1-710 0135; Kuwait City, 00965-2-530 9629; Jeddah, 00966-12-263 4730

Pandora Abu Dhabi, 00971-2-563 4264; Dubai, 00971-4-369 7037; Doha, 00974-6-694 8649; Manama, 00973-1-740 5400; Kuwait City, 00965-9-556 4118; Riyadh, 00966-11-481 0343

Paspaley Dubai, 00971-4-339 8745 Rado at Rivoli: Abu Dhabi, 00971-2-681 3035; Dubai, 00971-4-341 3121; Muscat, 00968-2-455 8290; Doha, 00974-4-479 0107

Tateossian at Harvey Nichols: Dubai, 00971-4-409 8888; Kuwait City, 00965-2-228 3008; Riyadh, 00966-11-273 44444

Urwerk at Ahmed Seddiqi & Sons: Dubai, 00971-4-355 9090

Van Cleef & Arpels Abu Dhabi, 00971-2-643 2088; Dubai, 00971-4-339 8001; Doha, 00974-4-416 9399; Jeddah, 00966-12-284 1481; Riyadh, 00966-11-465 2662

MISCELLANEOUS

Apple at Virgin Megastore: Abu Dhabi, 00971-2-644 7882; Dubai, 00971-4-341 4353; Doha, 00974-4-495 9060; Manama, 00973-1-717 2300

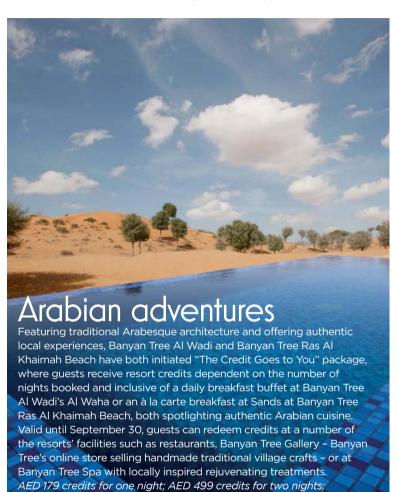
Beats by Dr. Dre at Virgin Megastore: Abu Dhabi, 00971-2-644 7882; Dubai, 00971-4-341 4353; Doha, 00974-4-495 9060; Manama, 00973-1-717 2300 Missoni at Harvey Nichols: Dubai,

Missoni at Harvey Nichols: Dubai, 00971-4-409 8888; Kuwait City, 00965-2-228 3008; Riyadh, 00966-11-273 4444

Sunnylife at Hamac: Dubai, 00971-4-339 8592; Muscat, 00968-24-76 9435 **Yamabahari** yamabahari.com

MOST WANTED

A look at what caught our eye this month, from sweet suites to wild adventures





ROYAL TREATMENT

Located in the heart of London at the edge of Hyde Park, Grosvenor House, A JW Marriott Hotel recently unveiled two new additions to its premium suites portfolio: Royal Hyde Park Suite and Royal Mayfair Suite. While the Royal Mayfair Suite is perfect for business travellers with its state-of-theart study, the Royal Hyde Park Suite is made for entertaining with a 12-seat dining table and Samsung Smart television. At 170sqm and featuring warm, neutral colour palettes, both suites house a spacious bedroom with a walk-in wardrobe, a grand living room, a kitchen equipped with modern fixtures, guest bathroom and a double vanity marble bathroom featuring a rain shower, stand-alone tub and Aromatherapy Associates amenities.

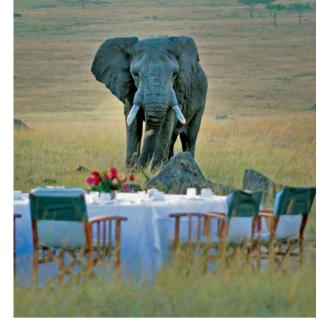
From AED 28,620; 0044-20-7499 6363, marriott.com

SPIRITUAL SANCTUARY

banyantree.com

The epicentre for traditional arts, crafts and dance in Indonesia, and home to intricate, must-see temples, Ubud will soon welcome a new luxury resort. On September 5, Mandapa, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve will open its doors to usher guests into its 60 suites and villas, four F&B outlets, two swimming pools and a luxury spa specialising in Balinese treatments along with a range of experiences using ESPA and local products. The Mandapa Spa also houses a state-of-the-art gym, yoga studio and vitality pool, and sauna and relaxation areas. 0062-361-479 2777; ritzcarlton.com/en/properties/mandapa





Escape to the wild

Since 1999, travel specialists Sanctuary Retreats have been offering all-natural yet luxurious adventures, guaranteed to have guests returning with lasting memories. Their portfolio includes experiences at African safari lodges in big-game territories like Kenya's Masai Mara and Tanzania, as well as specialist river cruises along the waters of the Zambezi River in Zambia and the picturesque Victoria Falls. sanctuaryretreats.com



Come fly with me

Flying to Bali just got easier with Emirates' launch of daily flights to and from the Indonesian island, which is known for its white sand beaches, volcanic mountains and lush rice paddies. The first airline to offer a direct route from the UAE, the nine-and-a-half-hour flight conveniently departs Dubai in the morning, reaching Bali's Denpasar International Airport the same evening, while the return leg departs late at night so you can squeeze in some more beach time and make the most of your trip. Next month, Emirates will also begin operating daily flights to Orlando from where passengers can enjoy seamless onward connections to other destinations in America, the Caribbean and South America through the airline's codeshare partner JetBlue.

LUXURY GETAWAYS

Recently launched in the GCC, Elegant Resorts is a UK-based specialist tour operator offering a wide array of luxurious holiday packages tailor-made to your preferences. With a list of must-visit destinations to choose from, options range from the recently revamped countryside Anassa in Cyprus to the Maldives' tropical Velaa Private Island, and Singita's Ebony Lodge, located right in the heart of South Africa's big cat country. 0044-1244-89 7881: elegantresorts.co.uk/dubai/c



TOP OF THE WORLD

This summer, luxury soared to new heights when the Shangri-La Hotel, at The Shard, London completed its three one-bedroom signature suites. At the apex of the hotel, the Shangri-La Suite, accessed by private elevator, occupies the 39th floor of Renzo Piano's iconic building, with 180-degree views over the city. Marble-clad bathrooms, iPads with augmented reality, a fully equipped pantry to take advantage of the hotel's Dine by Design offering and 1,000-thread-count Frette linens are just a handful of the plush amenities guests can expect. Visitors checking in to the London Suite and the Westminster Suite, on levels 37 and 38 respectively, will find handmade silk wallpaper, 24-hour butler service and a private chauffeur on hand, as well as the latest in technology and elegantly furnished living spaces overlooking London's most recognisable landmarks.

Shangri-La Suite from AED 57,400; 0044-20-7234 8088, shangri-la.com/london





OVERWATER VILLA

John Travolta and Oprah Winfrey are just two of the regular visitors to this private island, formerly owned by publishing magnate Malcolm Forbes before passing into the hands of Red Bull co-owner Dietrich Mateschitz, who transformed it into a sustainable resort with a farm, coconut plantations and its own fishing grounds. Arriving by boat or private plane, you'll be greeted with cries of "Bula" (hello) by the cheerful staff as you're whisked away to your private villa overlooking the emerald lagoon. Traditional Fijian craftsmanship is evident throughout, combining local style with contemporary comforts. Come

meal time, choose from five restaurants and bars, which make use of locally sourced ingredients, or enjoy dinner by your private pool. When you're done lounging, allow yourself to be lured by the views of volcanic mountains covered with coconut groves along Laucala's north coast and embark on an island expedition on foot or horseback.

Villas from AED 20,280 per day for two people with activities, meals and grape included; Overwater villa from AED 31,420; 00679-888 0077, laucala.com





Senator Perpetual Calendar. The perpetual calendar does justice to the most fleeting of moments: Thanks to its sophisticated automatic movement, it always displays the day, month, date, moon phase and leap year precisely and reliably. No manual adjustments will be required before the year 2100. A technical masterpiece in the art of German watchmaking, in which traditional craftsmanship, precious materials and high aspirations are united forever.



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